

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINADEE**
County : **CORK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	--
The Built Environment	40	25	--
Landscaping	40	23	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	--
Litter Control	40	25	--
Tidiness	20	10	--
Residential Areas	30	18	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	162	--

Ballinadee, Co Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is a real pleasure to welcome Ballinadee back into the Tidy Towns Competition after an absence of nine years. As there are no adjudicators comments from last year, the following will be in the nature of remarks given to a new entry. Some suggestions will be made (in brackets) regarding steps which might be considered for the future, but these suggestions will not be related to the marks awarded for 1997 and are merely made in passing. Because of the considerable amount of work which has clearly been done already, Ballinadee will re-enter the Competition relatively high in the marking order. Congratulations are already due for a remarkably good start. You should devise a 3-5 Year Plan; a short simple document setting out your objectives and actions for the next 3/5 years will suffice. It is good that you are in contact with the County Council, and that you have FAS assistance. (Do seek advice from the organisations named in the Tidy Towns booklet if you feel you would benefit.)

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The chief architectural features are the two churches, both of which are fine examples of their particular styles and both superbly maintained. The Church of Ireland has obviously had a very sensitive restoration not long ago. The school is also well maintained. The presentation of the pubs, and the use of strong colour, is excellent. (If you decide to enter for the Traditional Shopfront Award, plastic or mass-produced signs are detrimental.) Ballinadee Engineerings frontage is good - the side entrance is obviously undergoing development. The whitewashing of the derelict cottage is effective - but it would be nice to see this building restored.

LANDSCAPING

The shrub-planting along the river gives a very good initial impression to people arriving from the Kinsale side. For the moment it is rather sparse - more of the same, to fill the gaps, might be considered. Stone wall building in this area was in progress on adjudication day - when this is finished be sure to remove all builders debris. The cleaning of the stone walls below the Protestant Church is going very well - there is an excellent opportunity for shrub and tree planting in the triangular space. (The creation of shrubberies should be preferred to the planting of annuals in your long term plans - they give year-round satisfaction and require less labour. This is not to say that annuals should be ignored).

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This heading seems to have been neglected so far. Consider the nature of your surroundings - woodland, pastoral and estuarine - and the variety of wild life habitats to be identified and enhanced. (The guidelines in the Tidy Towns booklet will help you in this regard, and

the notes provided by Conservation Volunteers of Ireland). There is an abundance of old timber which has been well preserved and is most attractive in the way it frames the village.

LITTER CONTROL

There was hardly any litter in Ballinadee on adjudication day - congratulations.

TIDINESS

Weeds seemed to be the prevalent problem. These were particularly evident on the street rising to the north, at the entrance to Annsville House in the village centre, and in the neighbourhood of the Post Office. Elsewhere a great deal of work had been done in the removal of weeds. Generally, the village looked relatively tidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There is no housing estate in Ballinadee. Single houses on the outskirts, some with pleasant gardens, all looked well kept. The terraces of old street houses were beautifully painted, as one has come to expect in West Cork.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Surfacing and paving was generally good, with an excellently surfaced car park between the bridge and R.C. Church. Good fencing was noted adjacent to Ballinadee Engineering on the main Innishannon road. The principal approach roads were well cared for. The hill descending from the School and Dispensary leaves much to be desired. (A long-term project, which might be undertaken by FAS workers, would be the restoration of the water channel, which was probably originally cobbled). An untidy back area in the same location, adjacent to the Post Office, needs attention - such as another of the excellent traditional stone walls, or a hawthorn or beech hedge.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A village of considerable character and charm, already on the way to improving itself considerably. (It is essential to maintain the rural nature of the village, and not attempt suburbanisation. A few random points to remember; avoid plastic or mass-produced fascias on shops, avoid post-and-wire fencing which deteriorates rapidly, always remove grass immediately after cutting, avoid corrugated iron roofing as it rusts quickly, avoid unplastered concrete blocks in wall building or repair and be sure that trees or shrubs planted suit the local soil and climate).