

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLINEEN-ENNISKEAN**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 13-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	25
The Built Environment	40	22	21
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	23	22
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	17	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	6	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>158</b>

## **Ballineen-Enniskeane, Co Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The support given by local commercial concerns is most impressive, as is your Associations involvement with official bodies. Your map is one of the clearest and most comprehensive received this year. However, it is your Development Plan which requires most praise under this heading. Its history section makes fascinating reading, and the identification, and the inventory, of work to be done should make your task more manageable and more challenging in the future. You do not state if it is a 3 or a 5 year Plan, or which projects will be allocated for completion in which year, which is one of the purposes of such a Plan, but you have probably rectified this omission by now. Congratulations on this fine initiative.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The upgrading of the Church of the Immaculate Conception has been a most worthy project. The neighbouring School, with its well kept grounds, was also admired. The Church of Ireland School, surrounded by flowering cranesbill and roses, was most attractive on adjudication day. The deconsecrated church next door was not open on adjudication day - your history of this building is so full of interest, would there be a possibility of including it as a project in your Development Plan? Incidentally, the window is probably by Catherine A. O'Brien, not to be confused with her contemporary, the novelist Kate O'Brien, and the subject probably [The Pilgrims Progress, not Travels]. Painting of the Community Hall was very favourably noted - it might be possible to extend this to the low boundary wall. Two derelict buildings, on the right coming from Dunmanway, and in the centre of suburban housing between the villages, still need a solution. The old Court House is certainly a picturesque ruin and should be prevented from deteriorating further. There are still too many plastic and mass-produced signs on shopfronts, but a number of attractive premises were photographed for consideration in the awards.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Planting in flowerbeds on the roadside from Dunmanway seemed rather perfunctory on adjudication day, but there were marvellous floral displays here and there in the villages. Landscaping of the prime waterside area in Ballineen seemed better in intention than in execution, though the sweeping lawns were very trim; granted, a judicious balance is needed between what is natural (on the outskirts) and what is tidy (in the urban area), but nettles and very long grass were rather too much in evidence on both sides of the superb 6-arched bridge.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

It is good to read that you only use non-toxic weedkillers. The walk between the river and housing in Ballineen is delightful - your plans for the future are encouraging. (The guidance sheets from Conservation Volunteers Ireland enclosed with the Tidy Towns

booklet may be of use). The Graveyard impressed.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Congratulations on very little disposable litter throughout.

## **TIDINESS**

Really the only problem seemed to be weed, prevalent in a number of places - the car park opposite the church, in the forecourt of the old railway station, in the middle of the tennis court! Sometimes, with large open spaces, it can be preferable to grass them over rather than try to keep them weed free. Overhead wires and unsightly poles are a major element in untidiness here as in most Irish towns - this is only mentioned in passing, as the cost of removal and of more appropriate lamp standards is enormous, but where it has been done the effect is remarkable: would it be another long-term project, or even aspiration, in your Development Plan.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Most parts of the two villages are residential. Older street houses are, by and large, beautifully painted: one example must be picked out - a house opposite Hanrahans where the window-box flowers echo the colour scheme of the building; mauves, purples and magentas - quite sensational! The terraces facing the river looked very well on adjudication day, and also small houses inside streets. Many non-street houses have attractive gardens. Two large properties north of the main street also impressed.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Approach roads, especially from Dunmanway, were well presented. New paving was being laid at the time of adjudication. The car parks beside the church and in Castletown road were very well maintained, whereas those opposite the church and beside the Texaco garage were not. A rusty corrugated iron roof is all too visible in a back area, seen from Castletown road. The exterior of the saw-mills deserves commendation - difficult to achieve tidiness at an industrial complex. There are poorly kept ditches and fences near (but not at) Enniskeane Dairy Services. There is an untidy factory entrance east of the bridge on the Bandon road.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

A busy, enterprising and rapidly improving double village.