

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINSPITTLE**
County : **CORK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	23
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	22	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	24	23
Tidiness	20	9	10
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	160	160

Ballinspittle, Co Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your sponsorship and funding scheme is impressive, and it is good to see that you maintain contact with the County Council and that you have a F.A.S. Youth Employment Scheme. Your entry form does not state if you have a 3 - 5 year plan in operation - if you do not, this may explain why a number of points which were made by last years adjudicator have not been taken up. It is important to have a clear plan of action so that you can see where you are going. Progress over the last twelve months seems to have been rather disappointing.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The church is beautifully looked after. Barryroe Co-Op Stores has a well-kept exterior. The adjoining industrial premises is well maintained and does not cause the sort of environmental problems which are often the case with large concerns of this kind in a village centre. All the shops are a pleasure to the eye, but unfortunately neither of the pubs could be entered in the competition because of mass-produced signage. As mentioned by last years adjudicator, the two motor repair premises are not up to the general high standard.

LANDSCAPING

Shrub planting outside the Barryroe Co-Op and in several other places is good and the plants are well tended. As usual, the circular bed in the street centre looked most attractive. The grotto, some way out of the village, is a credit to those who look after it. A small and pleasing feature is the long bed of flowers which borders the Ballincurrag road.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There does not seem to have been an initiative in Ballinspittle under this heading. If you look at pages 13 and 14 of the Tidy Towns booklet you will find several suggestions for ways in which you can enhance your natural environment and create a greater awareness of the importance of providing or improving habitats in ways which are appropriate to your neighbourhood. You should also have received Guidance Notes prepared by Conservation Volunteers Ireland. The area beside the stream is excellently conserved and would be a good place to start.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little disposable litter on adjudication day, except beside the Health Centre. Your weekly clean-up is obviously continuing to be effective - congratulations.

TIDINESS

There were a number of weedy entrances, and the comments of last years adjudicator about weeds at the school and Garda station do

not seem to have been taken into account. The coping stones still have not been replaced on the wall of the car-park (this does give an untidy effect, but could equally well be mentioned under Roads, Streets etc., below).

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private houses both in the village centre and on the Clonakilty Road, are all very nicely painted, and those with front gardens add to the pleasing effect.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Paving and surfaces are generally good. The large car park at the church is especially well kept. The approaches from the south of the village are better tended than those from the north. The area by the bridge, including a stretch of private fencing, is very good indeed and makes for a fine focal-point in the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village looks neat and tidy to the passer-by, a place of charm and considerable distinction. It is only when one pauses to look closer that a number of discrepancies are noticed, and it is a pity that little seems to have been done over the past year to address these, because they could be overcome with some thought and attention. It is fair to say that Ballinspittle has not reached its true potential.