

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLYMAKEERA-BALLYVOURNEY**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	28
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	10	11
Residential Areas	30	16	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>170</b>

## **Ballymakeera/Ballyvourney, Co Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Your 3-Year Development Plan seems to be proceeding satisfactorily. The copy serves as a useful reminder, and the fruits of this years initiatives will make themselves plain in 1998.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Both churches are well maintained. The National School looked smart but its boundary wall should be painted to the standard of the building itself. The vacated College is a sad sight. A high gable in Ballymakeera is unpainted and catches the eye on entering the village from Macroom. The Co-Op nearby, and its curtilages, show how a commercial site can be well presented.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The Pitch & Putt course was well maintained, with handsome wooding fencing at the back. Good wooden fencing and planting was also favourably noted at the end of St Gobnait's Terrace. The park at Colaiste Baile Mhuirne looked well at the time of adjudication. Planting at the Udaras premises and the hotels was very pleasing indeed.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The hill and woodland walks are a wonderful amenity; they also draw attention to the superb hinterland of the villages. Illustrated glazed information boards, identifying local flora and fauna at entrances to walks, have proved to be popular in other centres and might be taken up here. The St Gobnait tradition might be emphasised in a more comprehensive way: the well, its approach, the cemetery and the area with the Seamus Murphy statue, the grounds of the Church of Ireland church, are all fascinating and well preserved, but there are blighted areas on this trail which need attention including the co-operation of local landowners. A new Garden Centre (?) was being laid out beside the upper bridge - would it be possible to open up the picturesque riverside to the public in a sensitive way here? Tree-planting generally - whether done this year or in the past - is impressive.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

There was very little disposable litter in either village on adjudication day. Congratulations.

### **TIDINESS**

Too many signs of all descriptions are imposing an untidy and unattractive effect on the west end of Ballyvourney. Weeds were growing in the paving of the school playground. Weeds were prevalent in the car park at Pairc Naoimh Aban, and the adjacent playground was quite weedy too. A broken wall opposite the O Conaill premises needs repair. The car park near the old cemetery

was also weedy at the time of adjudication. Small incidences of untidiness can have an overall deleterious visual effect much greater than the size of the individual problems might suggest: it is a matter of attention to details on the part of owners of premises, whether public or private.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There is a wonderful variety of housing - older street houses are generally well painted, terraces and estates of modern housing are well maintained, individual homes (such as those situated between the two villages, many with pleasant gardens) are very well looked after, and country houses - such as the charming cottage with barge-boards in course of renovation at the approach to Ballymakeera and the Georgian house backed by trees at the upper bridge - all contribute to an air of pride and prosperity. A pity to see a wonderful Gothic mansion near St Gobnait's well falling into decay, but this is an exception.

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

Surfaces are good. Verges and hedges of the two main approach roads are reasonably well tended. Stone boundary walls, particularly in Ballyvourney, are first class, and new stone wall building was much admired.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Both villages have a pleasant and progressive air. Ballyvourney in particular is strong on its identification with its forest and field surroundings; tree-planting, and the use of stone and timber in boundaries, are admirable features.