

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINASLOE**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	28
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	25	23
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	194	181

Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the very detailed entry form which you submitted, together with your action plan for litter, the photographs and the video (which was most enjoyable to watch). You could in fact edit this video and use it at some promotions that Ireland West Tourism are involved in as it gives one a lovely taste of Ballinasloe. The Urban District Council and the Tidy Towns Committee have done tremendous work in Ballinasloe. I have passed through your town on many occasions. It is many years ago since I adjudicated it and I must say that I saw your town through different eyes. Ballinasloe has certainly come a long way in the competition and I look forward to seeing continued development in the town.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It is very evident that the business community are totally behind the concept of the competition. The town looks most colourful with the display of window boxes, hanging baskets and traditional shop fronts. However, there are still one or two black spots in Dunlo Street, Main Street and Society Street. I do not think it is necessary to name them as I assume those who are not doing their bit to improve their premises are known. Barrett's Shopping Centre is also presented to a high standard.

LANDSCAPING

Your tree planting programme which would appear to be ongoing is really enhancing the appearance of your town. The restored stone walls throughout are very attractive. The Glebe area and Sli na hAbhainn are really lovely areas not only to be enjoyed by the visitor, but more importantly to be enjoyed by the local residents. The Fair Green area is also presented to a very high standard. The monument opposite the sports ground looks most impressive as you enter the town and it is very well maintained.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You are fortunate to have many wildlife habitats encapsulated in your town. It is a good idea to plant berry bearing trees and shrubs to attract further wildlife. Examine ways to make nature more accessible and enjoyable. Properly managed natural areas and wildlife will add greatly to your area. You are well on the way to further developing this amenity.

LITTER CONTROL

Your action plan for litter abatement is obviously successful. For such a busy town I was very impressed generally by the absence of litter, particularly in the centre of the town. There is no shortage of litter bins, but I think it is now time to perhaps give them a fresh coat of paint as they look a little shabby. The student summer scheme is such a good idea and it was very much in evidence on adjudication day as work was being done on that day by these

people.

TIDINESS

The bottle bank at Crazy Prices is well signposted and is very accessible to the local community. The town looked very tidy and was presented to a high standard. Weed control along the pathways was good. Your idea of introducing garden/household waste composting units is a very good one and it will be interesting to see how it succeeds.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses at St. Joseph's housing estate are nicely painted. The green area in front could be tidied a little; also the provision of additional litter bins here would be helpful, particularly as it is a playing area. The houses at St. Michael's Place are well maintained and also at Hymany Park. The houses at Hawthorn Park are presented to a very high standard with some lovely manicured gardens? I saw some lovely houses on the approach roads. The Dunlo Harbour development looks very attractive; also, the retail outlets here are well presented. The houses at Duneeda are well maintained and the gardens look very well.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All of the approach roads to Ballinasloe are very well maintained. The nameplates and the Welcome Signs are most pleasing and welcoming. The car park both at the Church and opposite is commendable in the neat and tidy way in which it is presented. The road at Church Street is excellent. There is a lovely stone wall opposite the entrance to Poolboy Industrial Estate. Also the flower bed leading to the entrance of Square D factory is very colourful.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The establishment of a Tidy Towns Committee is a Welcome addition and there is a wonderful community involvement which is very visible. It is so much better to involve the community as there is only so much that the council can do. However, Ballinasloe is most fortunate to have such an active UDC and the Town Clerk is to be highly commended for the guidance and direction she has given. You have great plans for the betterment of Ballinasloe. I look forward to seeing the completion of them. I really enjoyed my visit to your town and I wish you every success in the coming years.