

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYGAR**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	40	22	21
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	11
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	162	159

Ballygar, Co. Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for completing the entry form and for the sketch of the area. Your community should produce a plan to cover the next 3 - 5 years and you should set out clearly your objectives for each year. Do not adopt unrealistic objectives; a limited number of targets which are achievable each year is far more likely to yield results. You must have the backing of the entire community. You mention in the entry form that you receive little or no sponsorship. You must devise ways of raising money through competitions, race nights etc. Also it is very important that you involve the younger members of your community as they will be the Tidy Towns committee of the future.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

In general, the business premises are presenting their shops to a good standard. The Bank of Ireland was awash with colour. The Post office could make a better effort. The boundary walls at the Garda Barracks could be painted, and also the boundary walls of the school could benefit from a fresh coat of paint. Some flower tubs or window boxes at the Health Centre would enhance this area. The Abbey Hotel, Thomas Kearney, Martin's Lounge, Marguerite's, Nestor's Lounge and Colaiste Muire are all presented to a good standard.

LANDSCAPING

The stone flower planters at the square are most attractive. Also the tree planting is commendable. The siting of ornamental trees in towns and villages is a key aspect. Each tree or group of trees should have a purpose. Relatively few towns and villages have enough trees. You should encourage the community to provide window boxes and flower tubs where appropriate as they greatly enhance an area with great colour.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Suck Valley way walk is a good amenity and is well signposted. I am sure that a lot of wildlife could be identified along part of this route. Many wildlife habitats adjoin or are encapsulated within towns or villages, with habitats such as woodlands, hedgerows and grass verges along approach roads. You will be delighted at discovering the number and extent of these habitats. Properly managed natural areas and wildlife will add greatly to the area you are presenting.

LITTER CONTROL

You will have to be very vigilant in the control of litter. Litter does not simply happen, it is caused. Almost everyone is guilty of contributing to the problem at one time or another and everyone can play a part in achieving a solution. There was evidence of litter at the car park at the school and also at the Square.

TIDINESS

Some kerbside weeding needs to be done. Constant attention is needed here. Generally the area is neat and tidy. On adjudication day there was no sign of a bottle bank. When these are installed, ensure that directional signs, bilingually if possible, are erected.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the houses on the approach roads are very nicely maintained with well manicured gardens. The hanging baskets at the house beside Centra look very nice. Also, the house next to the Church is well presented. Some flowers at the library would look nice here.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

You should try to secure uniform Welcome Signs on all the approach roads. First impressions can be lasting. Also it would be good if all of the litter bins and street furniture were painted the same colour to give a more uniform look. The Ballygar sign on the Mountbellew approach is totally hidden by the advertising board for the carnival. The stone walls at the Creggs road look lovely.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Watch the black spots. Also, there are some derelict premises in Ballygar and this problem needs to be addressed. Ballygar has much to offer and bear this in mind when producing your development plan. May I wish you continued success for the future.