

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYRAGGET**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	24
The Built Environment	40	22	21
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	196	184

Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for all the information which you have sent with your entry form. It was most helpful on adjudication day. Your 11 development items were noted, some of which have already taken place. Many however would appear not to have been undertaken as yet and therefore were not included in this years adjudication. It is suggested that a 5-Year Plan should be produced on which 1997 should be the first year. This does not have to be too elaborate or indeed you do not have to employ consultants to prepare it. It can be done in conjunction with local interests and with the advice of your Local Authority and other development agencies such as FAS, see this year's Tidy Towns Competition brochure. You received an in-depth report last year. The following comments should be read in conjunction with that report.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

All the buildings mentioned in last years report were again very well presented. There are still a number of derelict sites which need to be attended to and should be part of your objectives for the 5-Year Plan.

LANDSCAPING

Your comments regarding the planting of trees at The Green and in Bridge Street were noted on adjudication day. The work which has been done on The Green is excellent and further work was in progress on adjudication day. Your reaction to the comment in last years report regarding the provision of a proper path has also been noted. Well done to all concerned. As mentioned last year some judicious tree planting in The Green area would be desirable but be careful how you would handle this. Too many trees mean clutter while judicious planting can soften the landscape. Your plans for shrub and flower planting have also been noted. Again, do this judiciously using shrubs which will flower on an all-year-round basis. Flower beds need careful attention, do not plant them unless you have the physical resources to attend to them. In all of this consult with your local experts, Coillte and your Local Authority, who will give you the best advice possible.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

As part of your 5-Year Plan you should seriously considered in conjunction with it the preparation of a Wildlife and Natural Amenities Plan. This is a new category in the competition with the emphasis on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitat and the environment. Woodland, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, grass margins, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats. Try to identify as many as possible in your area and determine appropriate action to conserve and enhance them. Guidelines in the Tidy Towns brochure offer other suggestions as to the type of initiative you might undertake. Perhaps there is a local wildlife expert or a member of your Community with

experience in this area which your Committee might be able to draw on.

LITTER CONTROL

In this respect Ballyragget was almost completely litter-free and evidence of litter control was to be seen on adjudication day.

TIDINESS

The entire town was very well presented. Unfortunately there are still one or two broken walls, a major one being on the Kilkenny approach. Although always a difficulty, business premises should be encouraged to remove shop signs particularly those of a plastic nature many of which serve no useful purpose.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The vast majority of private residences were very well presented and congratulations are due again to all concerned. The formation of residents associations should be encouraged and representatives invited on to your Committee. Many estates have attractively planted and well kept greens which are a vital part of any Tidy Towns effort.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces are good but ongoing work needs to be done on approach roads particularly from the Durrow side where the area around the Bridge is still very overgrown. Try if possible throughout the year to carry out some verge clearance while at the same time preserving some of the verges as a habitat for wildflowers.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression is of a town with tremendous potential for further progress in this competition which will be obtained through attention to detail and acting on the advice in last years and this years report in conjunction with a 5-Year Plan. Ballyragget has a number of visual assets including The Square, The Green and the presentation of its commercial and private premises.