

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINGARRY VILLAGE**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	187	185

Ballingarry, Co, Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The submitted Ballingarry 2000 plan commissioned via West Limerick Resources on behalf of the Community Council is a very progressive step forward. It outlines in detail the developments that can be achieved both on a short term and long term basis. There are some very forward thinking ideas in this plan, most notably the proposed park which would really enhance the village and provide an amenity to be enjoyed by future generations of Ballingarry residents. The committee of 8 is probably sufficient in size to cater for all aspects of the villages future in the competition

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Every town and village has its own distinctive features which reflects its own particular history and traditions. Ballingarry has a lot of buildings with their own architectural character and it's important that these buildings are maintained in a manner that contributes significantly to the general appearance of the village. The proposed Plan 2000 will help to maximise the potential of the village which at present has not been fully realised. In practical terms a plan such as this needs the support of all sections of the community. There are some very positive features in this category and unfortunately a number of negatives as well. These are some of the things that impacted on this adjudicator (not necessarily a definitive list). The Church, which has a Cathedral-like appearance, was very impressive in an elevated position. The Graveyard was also in excellent condition with an attractive boundary wall. Both the Parochial Hall and School were well maintained as was the Grotto on the road in from Croom; it was nice to see colourful tubs and beds. On the commercial side, Trainor's Hostel was very impressive, as was The Mustard Seed at the Knockaderry Rd junction. The Spar Shop and dwelling house was very well presented, being clean and tidy. Ballingarry has a number of buildings that have fine traditional facades, notably Quaid's and Ahern's. Hopefully, these will be kept in good condition and improved upon in an appropriate manner. Unfortunately there are too many derelict houses scattered all over the village. This is a problem that the committee have to address and hopefully will get the full co-operation from owners.

LANDSCAPING

The standard in this category was quite good, an immense effort has been made in to enhance the village by means of prudent planting. The Park will be a major addition and hopefully will have a combination of suitable trees complemented by shrubs and colourful flowers. The trees planted at the impressive stonewall as you exit to Croom are maturing nicely. The flowers planted along the stonewall on the High Road were very much admired as was the shrub bed on the green area in front of the very impressive terrace of houses on the Rathkeale Road. There was a nice

planting arrangement at the Dromcollogher/ Knockaderry Road. Keep up the good work.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The town has a number of focal points that could be considered as a base for a nature/wildlife project. This is a sector that should get special attention under Plan 2000. Ensure that a suitable person of experience is identified to advise on the best course of action. Involve the youth of the village, entrust them with the task of identifying wildlife habitats and the species of birds, animals and insects that exist therein.

LITTER CONTROL

There was little evidence of litter on adjudication day. Generally, litter control was good with sufficient bins strategically placed around the village.

TIDINESS

There was room for improvement in this category. Weeds were observed at kerbsides in different areas of the town. Some signs were rather grubby especially directional signs on the Kilmallock Road. There was a very untidy farm yard as one approaches from the Kilmallock end of the town. The yard opposite Trainor's was still in an unacceptable state. These are just a few of the untidy areas noted. Encouragement should be given to owners to co-operate in the effort being put in by the vast majority of residents.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The terrace of houses on the Rathkeale Road were extremely well presented; top marks to the residents. Other residential properties, with the exception of those already mentioned in the context of dereliction, were very well presented. The cottages across from C of I were once again noted as having potential for improvement.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The roads into the village were very presentable. The Kilmallock, Rathkeale and Croom roads were in excellent shape; grass margins were cut back and hedgerows were trimmed. The back areas in the main were presentable, with exceptions some of which have been mentioned in other sections.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The committee have succeeded in channelling the efforts of all sections of the community in a positive way. The village has a rich historical past and possesses some fine buildings of character which are very much admired by visitors. The proposed plan is ambitious in content but very practical; hopefully it will succeed in attracting the support of the local community as well as that of the local authority and other agencies. In the interim it is important the Tidy Towns Committee continue their good work.