

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYAGRAN**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	--
The Built Environment	40	21	--
Landscaping	40	21	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	--
Litter Control	40	21	--
Tidiness	20	10	--
Residential Areas	30	17	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	--
General Impression	10	5	--
TOTAL MARK	300	153	--

Ballyagran, Co. Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the Tidy Towns Competition and thank you for submitting your completed entry form. You mention a FAS scheme, which no doubt would benefit the village significantly. However, your first all important step is to formulate a development plan that will outline the many problems which you have, and make recommendations for improvement. Such a plan should be drawn up in consultation with the community and should reflect the wishes of the community for improvements. You have many problems that will need the goodwill of land and property owners and it is important to get all of these on your side. Also involve the various statutory agencies, e.g. the local authority.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There are many attractive buildings throughout the village and some new houses have just been completed. The school and church are well presented, although the road surface outside the school is in need of dressing. The church is attractive and well positioned. The timber kiosk inside the front gates should be relocated. It is regrettable that there are so many plastic signs on the various commercial premises - these are very much out of favour presently and should be replaced with more traditional and sign writing. The Food market seems closed and is in need of improved presentation. The petrol pumps are poorly maintained and there is an unsightly litter trap at the chainlink fencing beside the house. Could the green abandoned car be removed for next year. The new house on the corner with the chainlink fencing surround would be much improved by planting a hedge (beech or laurel) inside the fence. This is a strategic location in the village.

LANDSCAPING

There is a welcome display of flowers in tubs, window boxes and hanging baskets throughout the village and this is praiseworthy. You have several attractive approach roads that could be improved by landscaping. Approach roads play an important part for first impressions. There is a splendid high hedge between the church and the Foodmarket that illustrates how effective hedging can be for screening purposes.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have plenty of opportunity to promote wildlife on the approach roads. You need to watch the timing of hedge cutting and leave adequate long grass margins near the hedge base for suitable habitats. Consider a wildlife project with school children and contact your local Wildlife Officer/I.W.C. branch for guidance.

LITTER CONTROL

Despite the well placed litter bins, you have a litter problem that needs to be tackled. Litter control will play an important part in

progressing in the competition and everyone will need to play a part. Ideally, you should organise a meitheal once a week for litter control and a general tidy up - this is normal practice with Tidy Towns Committees.

TIDINESS

The many unattended open spaces and back areas, as well as , derelict buildings, project an image of untidiness. You also have a good deal of boundary walls in need of painting; this is a matter for property owners with your management. The telephone kiosk is almost unique now and much more acceptable to a rural village than the modern ones - you should encourage its retention. Farm gates should be painted by the group with owners' permission. The treatment of the block wall with ivy growth at the hurling field entrance is excellent and will eventually be an attractive spectacle if cultivated.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

In general, houses are well presented. There is a superb house and garden on the Charleville approach, just outside the village entry sign. It is heartening to witness so many new houses and these should be developed in traditional style, thus retaining the rural ethos of the village. Your weakness is with boundary walls and this will need to be addressed in the coming years.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfacing is good, except for some margin areas already referred to. Side and rear entrances, especially to commercial premises should be presented to a high standard. Singage is good and some have been freshly painted.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village looked reasonably well on adjudication day and you have made a good start by entering the competition. This adjudicator's visit has shown up little concern for the 30 mile speed limit, but this is something beyond the control of a Tidy Towns Committee. Dont forget the plan and try and bring the community with you in your endeavours. Good luck for 1998.