

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLYHAHILL**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 17-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	--
The Built Environment	40	24	--
Landscaping	40	24	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	--
Litter Control	40	23	--
Tidiness	20	10	--
Residential Areas	30	18	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	--
General Impression	10	6	--
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>--</b>

## **Ballyhahill, Co. Limerick**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Ballyhahill is welcome to the 1997 competition and thank you for the completed questionnaire and detailed map. The number involved in the committee seems very large for such a small village; maybe a main committee of say 10 with relevant sub committees might be more beneficial especially when it comes to making decisions. The village looked quite well and will in future years no doubt progress in the competition. It is important to forge links with the Local Authority and other public sector agencies as well as the West Limerick Resource Group. A 3 year workplan is now a requirement for all Tidy Towns Committees and would be of great benefit as it would outline both short term and long term objectives.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There is a lot of work to be done in this category. Ballyhahill is an attractive village in an unspoilt part of County Limerick. It is important to start on a positive note and whilst there are a number of buildings that are not in a good state of presentation, one should focus on what can be done to improve these. For instance, the Old Creamery is a focal point and a link with days gone by. A revitalisation plan should be put in place that would restore the building to its former glory and also serve the local community in a practical manner. Similarly, the Bridge is a nice feature that could be developed a little more. The school was in excellent condition with a nice planting arrangement. The Parochial Hall (Old School) was in excellent condition and the Church was well presented even though the boundary walls needed to be painted. R.M. O'Sullivan's, the Post Office with nice flower beds and the Supermarket on the corner were all presented to a high standard.

### **LANDSCAPING**

It is good to see the committee encouraging residents to display window boxes and hanging baskets; this is a positive step and one that will add more colour to the village. The Bridge area could be selected as a base for a new landscaping project on the banks of the River Bride. The committee should enlist as much practical support as it can from the County Council to help them start a landscaping programme. As stated Ballyhahill is a village with potential and this is one sector where there is immense scope for development. For instance, the streetscape is rather bare at present, a tree planting programme would help bring a sense of vibrancy. The school grounds were in pristine condition and full marks to those responsible for their upkeep.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Ballyhahill has potential for greater nature conservation. A good starting point would be to identify the wildlife habitats in the catchment area and see what species of animals, birds, and fish these will attract. Why not involve somebody with local knowledge

of wildlife habitats who will advise on how to develop a suitable project. The River Bride may be the ideal base to start with and local schoolchildren could be encouraged to contribute to the project.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The committee are taking a very positive step by encouraging school children to have a greater appreciation of the value of a good litter control programme. The village was virtually litter free on adjudication day which is a good start. A few more rubbish bins are needed especially on the outskirts of the village. Keep up the good work.

## **TIDINESS**

This a sector that could be improved upon as there were areas that were rather untidy and that need to be addressed as soon as possible. The Abha Ban sign on the bridge was rather grubby and needs to be cleaned and made visible. Weeds were evident at kerbsides and around the Old Creamery and the area adjacent to this building was overgrown and unsightly. The committee should give encouragement to all residents to ensure that the village is kept tidy.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Residential properties in the village were well presented with one or two exceptions. The Meadowlea Estate was in good condition even though the sign could do with a coat of wood preservative. All in all the standard in this category was quite good for first time entrants.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

This sector needs to be improved upon for next year's competition. A well presented approach road to a village/town creates a good impression. Unfortunately, the approach roads into Ballyhahill were not the best. The verges and banks on the Shanagolden Road need to be cut back as do those on the Glin Road. The Loughill Road was acceptable. The bridge should be cleaned and painted with black and yellow stripes as it is not very attractive in its present state. The road surfaces were very poor, representations to the Council should be intensified because if not addressed the roads will only deteriorate further.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The committee have been busy in advancing the cause of Tidy Towns and what it can and will achieve for the village. Ballyhahill is a pleasant place with a sense of tranquillity about it; hopefully the residents will respond to the efforts of the committee and endeavour to make progress in the years ahead. Keep up the good work