

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYORGAN**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	29
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	185	181

Ballyorgan, Co. Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you in this your second year in the competition for a very comprehensively completed questionnaire with an additional work plan and map which outlined precisely what the committee hope to achieve over the next few years. All involved are to be commended, this is the type of commitment necessary for success in the competition.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The majority of buildings in the village were very well maintained and property owners are responding to the encouragement given by the committee. The Church was well presented with its unique red sandstone and the school was in excellent shape except for the boundary wall which at the very least needs a dash of whitewash. The Old Forge, Mee's Bar and the Lantern Lodge Guesthouse also deserve praise. It saddened this adjudicator, who has good memories of Ballyorgan many years back, to see Moynihan's so derelict. Hopefully something can be done to rectify the situation in the coming year. It is encouraging to see that the committee are taking positive action on buildings such as the old creamery which provides a link with the pre co-op rationalisation era let's hope that this building is kept intact as a historical link with the past. The Community Hall could be restored for some practical benefit to the community; again due recognition to the efforts of the committee.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping plan as outlined in your plan is ideal for a village such as Ballyorgan which has a distinct advantage in this category in that it is situated in one of the most picturesque places in the country surrounded by woods and lush green fields adjacent to Castleoliver which is synonymous with the area. The choice of mountain ash and birch for planting on approach roads is to be commended; it is important that these are properly maintained. As was the case last year, there was an abundance of wildflowers which contributed to the overall look of the place. There is a clear landscaping plan earmarked for sections of the village in the short term, this will ensure that ongoing work can be monitored and reviewed at intervals. Keep up the excellent work under this category.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The village has a natural advantage in this category in that there are so many natural wildlife habitats in and around the village. There is an abundance of trees of different species and numerous types of wildflowers. I would suggest that the committee initiate a specific programme which would involve the local schoolchildren under the guidance of a local environmentalist. The notice board depicting the bird species in the immediate area is a positive addition to the village. The surrounding area is a haven for

walking and hill climbing enthusiasts who by their nature are lovers of wildlife. Ballyorgan offers a lot in this category.

LITTER CONTROL

The village was virtually litter free on adjudication day and rubbish bins were strategically placed in the village. However, one or two more bins on the extreme outskirts of the village would be welcome.

TIDINESS

Overall the village was quite tidy even though there were little patches of weeds evident on the Kilifinane Rd. A little more attention should be given to open areas and boundary walls; it is noted that the workplan has identified problems that will need to be tackled in the short term. The main cause of untidiness on adjudication day was of a temporary nature in the form of loose hay strewn around the village. There was one election poster still to be seen. To be fair, Ballyorgan is not the only village with posters still in evidence but at this stage all these should be removed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

All private residences in the village and its surrounds were very well presented on adjudication day. The houses on the Kilfinane Rd were in excellent condition but, as was the case last year, more detail should be given to boundary walls and fences. The Long Delay Cottage (what a great name) looked very colourful and the Village Inn deserves mention; indeed, were a number of foreign visitors relaxing outside thus on adjudication day admiring the majestic Ballyhouras.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads were well presented. Margins were cut and hedgerows were expertly trimmed, with wildflowers on both the Kilfinane and Kildorrery Rds. Potholes on all approach roads are a problem; ongoing communication with the Local Authority hopefully will pay off.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballyorgan village is extremely attractive nestled at the foot of the Ballyhouras, its the kind of place that one hopes will never become overcrowded or overdiscovered. It has a natural attractiveness that can be further enhanced by careful planning by the committee. As rightly pointed out in the questionnaire it dates back to the mid -1700s. It has been associated with Palatine families and this link should be developed further' I am sure there are descendants of Steepes and Barkmans still in the area. The Tidy Towns committee are to be commended for their efforts to date and no doubt the village will benefit in the forthcoming years.