

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **GALBALLY**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 26-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>240</b>

## **Galbally, County Limerick**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for submitting detailed and precise responses to the questionnaire. Galbally is a prime example of how the developmental approach can achieve results. The committee has harnessed support and input from all the local organisations and clubs in the parish and has succeed admirably in channelling this into a workplan that is both realistic and achievable. The co-operation between the committee, local authority and other state agencies and companies has evolved over the years and is now at a level that most centres would certainly not have. The spirit of community participation alluded to last year is still as strong if not stronger this year.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

All buildings commercial, private and public were once again presented to a very high standard and what is very noticeable is that there are very few of what could be termed derelict sites . The residents are to be commended for their efforts. The Church and grounds were maintained to a very high standard with the back wall area painted. The School was very neat with railings painted and the silver birches giving a nice effect on what was a very pleasant day. Moore Abbey, a spot for quite contemplation was also in an excellent condition with the surrounding area well preserved. The War of Independence memorial, which is a focal point in the village, was maintained to a very high standard and a credit to those responsible for its upkeep. The Canon Hennessy Community Centre was at its best with a very nice frontage, the derelict Morris Minor should be removed or restored. The results of the ongoing village painting scheme were very evident ,the mix of colours was very striking giving the village a sense of vibrancy. The following cross section of premises caught this adjudicators eye: O'Donovan's in red, black and cream was one that stood out primarily because of the mix of colours. Nice to see the commemoration plaque as a recognition of the Bianconni era. Centra, John Scanlan, O'Domhnaill's, Noonans Service Station and Mulveys Coffee Shop also deserve mention. Thomond House which is a very impressive premises could do with a fresh coat of paint to give a more striking effect. Commercial premises aside the thing that strikes one about the village is the standard of presentation of private residences. The colour combination is majestic it would be unfair to highlight any specific premises, so full marks to all the villagers of Galbally.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The standard in this category was excellent the village and its surrounds looked splendid with an appropriate mix of colourful flowers, shrubs and trees. All green and open areas were properly maintained. The planting arrangement in the centre of the village was the perfect example of how the simple approach can be most effective. The village pump was again noted for its

colour and simplicity. The surrounding areas of the village contribute immensely to the high standard in this category. The road in from Moore Abbey has examples of nice planting arrangements, for instance flowers planted on a newly constructed wall adjacent to an attractive farmhouse provide a pleasant backdrop. Similarly the landscaping undertaken at the Ballylanders/Garryspillane junction is an attractive feature in an otherwise featureless road. A note of caution to the committee do not be tempted to over plant the village centre in years to come ,at present it looks just perfect.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Your workplan outlines what you have in mind in this category and even the simple approach of refraining from excessive hedgecutting is to be commended. The committee should give consideration to initiating and sponsoring a school project as well as poster competitions. .

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The approach undertaken by the committee to involve school children is very praise worthy. But once they are made aware of the facts they will make great efforts to keep the place tidy and also influence peers who might be a bit careless. On adjudication day there was very little litter except one or two wrappers near the Community Centre. All in all an excellent effort.

## **TIDINESS**

Residents of the village were actually engaged on a clean up effort on adjudication day, kerbsides were being cleaned and fire hydrants and signs had been painted. The graveyard area was due for a tidy up no doubt this has been done since adjudication day. Hopefully the Morris Minor referred to in a previous section will be restored to its former glory.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

This year as in others the standard was extremely high, it seems to be second nature to the residents of Galbally to have their respective properties looking well. I have mentioned that the owners of private residences both in the immediate centre of the village and the surrounds have their houses and gardens in pristine condition. But special mention to the residents of Pine Avenue and Galtee View for the manner in which they have presented their estates. A number of problems that were noted last year have been rectified.

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

The standard of the approach roads was impeccable and actually minor issues which would go unnoticed elsewhere stood out. For instance on the road in from Moore Abbey which was so attractive with a mass of wildflowers on ditches, the Galbally directional sign was slightly overgrown. The other approaches from Tipperary, Ballylanders and Mitchelstown were all excellent

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Galbally with the majestic Galtee Mountains as backdrop is as pleasant a village as one could find on this island. It is free from over commercialisation and offers the casual visitor a sense of tranquillity. The committee have worked so hard over the years to harness and channel the efforts of all sections of the community to positive effect. In achieving the ultimate accolade some years back it never lost its rural charm and hopefully never will. The village is a credit to all its residents

### **SECOND ADJUDICATION (12/8/97)**

The square gives a very attractive impression of the village with painting and presentation to a very high standard. The streamside walk by the road towards the cemetery is attractive. The silver birch trees in the school grounds give a good frame to the building - perhaps now there is a need for more landscaping in the school grounds. Part of the character of Galbally results from the beautiful beech trees - four in the cemetery, some along the streamside and more surrounding the village. Where are the replacements of these for the next two generations ?. The Dolmen is a local asset. The walk to reach this is very scenic but the use of concrete and mesh fencing seems out of context.