

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINAMUCK**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	--
The Built Environment	40	17	--
Landscaping	40	19	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	8	--
Litter Control	40	20	--
Tidiness	20	8	--
Residential Areas	30	14	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	14	--
General Impression	10	4	--
TOTAL MARK	300	124	--

Ballinamuck, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome back to the competition after your period of absence. The competition has changed. Do not compare your marks now with those achieved previously as there is different emphasis and more elements included. A 3-5 year plan is required in order to set out main objectives for the Committee under the various headings such as litter control, approach roads, wildlife etc. Well done on all your voluntary work carried out so far.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Ballinamuck has a rich heritage. There are some excellent signposts pointing out the main elements of historical interest in the area. The National School was reasonably presented - the centre tub is nice - however one colour planting makes a better impact. Dillons is well kept with some nice hanging baskets. The church looked well and was neatly kept. The 98 Bar, though nicely thatched would benefit from more traditional signage. The area beside the 98 Bar requires attention. Building material needed to be removed from outside the graveyard. The Monument area, the Community Hall/ Heritage centre were well presented - well done. A corrugated roof near the Pot Office needed repainting.

LANDSCAPING

Well done to those who have made an effort - though they contrasted sharply with those people and the areas that had not. The rockery looked well - although it required a lot of effort to put in place - it should be low maintenance after a couple of years. Additional tree planting (one species) could be considered for some of the road side areas i.e. towards the 98 Bar.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It was nice to see foxgloves in the hedge rows. Selective cutting/or tidying of verges and hedgerows rather than mass cutting back encourages wildflowers. The stream close to the Post Office is an ideal wildlife habitat that ought to be encouraged/tidied sympathetically. At present there is a barrel and some debris in the stream. Planting of native plants rather than exotics is also encouraged.

LITTER CONTROL

A small amount of litter noted on the day of adjudication. The village would benefit from an additional couple of litter bins placed out the roads.

TIDINESS

An election poster and fly posting for a circus required removal. The poor condition on the road signs, left building material and overgrown areas detracted from the tidiness of the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

These varied in presentation. Some were well presented such as the white washed cottage on the road in from the cross-roads. There were also some nice houses in the centre of the village although some derelict houses were also noted.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road from Drumlish had some neatly cut back hedges though the sign itself was in the brambles. There was erratic cutting of hedges throughout the villages - they needed to be tidied back rather than a mass cut back. The sign for Ballinamuck on the Clonoose Lake road was broken and dirty. The Yield sign here needed to be erected properly and an abandoned car further up the hill required removal.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This village seems to have concentrated on certain elements to the detriment of others. For example nice hanging baskets and displays, a well presented heritage monument area with however poor approach roads. A plan as required will give greater direction - good luck. The use of Irish is encouraged in the competition and this should be remembered when erecting signs/boards.