

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYMAHON**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	22
The Built Environment	40	21	20
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	9
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	21
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	158	151

Ballymahon, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed questionnaire, map and plan. The plan has set out some work that has been done and also some projects for the future. Have you liaised with the local authority about the elements set out in the plan? The aspect of traffic management is commendable. It is certainly a busy town. Other aspects come to mind - have canoeing/watersport holidays being developed and packaged with local accommodation?

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It is welcomed that a feasibility study is being carried out on the mill. It holds such an important position in the town. Renovation of the RC Church and market house will also be welcomed. The pump at the junction of the Ballymore road requires a coat of paint. The Garda station was fine and had some nice planting. The creamery/dairy would look better with some trees planted. Congratulations on the new canoe slipway at the bridge - now an information board and marketing of this as an amenity is required. The canoe slipway further down the river had quite an amount of litter in the undergrowth in the carpark which was a pity. The Church of Ireland Church is a fine building and has a lot to offer. Kenny's Lounge has some fine hanging baskets. Many of the business premises require more traditional signage - much of it dates from the 60s and 70s. The fire station is a fine building. Cooney's Londis looks well. Perhaps some hanging baskets outside the Credit Union and the library could be considered. The church was neat and tidy though no greenery was present. The planting outside the school was nice, however the walls required repainting. The Sports Centre also required tidying up. The area beside Statoil station on the Longford road looked ready for planting.

LANDSCAPING

The grassy area opposite the Statoil garage could be tidied up and turned into a nice (strategically located) green patch. Some one has crashed into one of the stone planters in the main street - all the more reason for traffic control and management! Amenity area beside the mill was well presented and maturing well. Planting at both Toome bridge and Brannigans Harbour should really reflect the environment and should consist mainly of indigenous or native species rather than exotics such as Cordylines. Great to see the bird box at Brannigans Harbour - the adjudicators trust that it is furnished with crusts and bits of food during the winter months!. Brannigan Harbour and amenity area should be signposted.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Canal and rivers are your main wildlife habitat. Interpretative signs or display boards needed at the canal and at the river. A

project identifying wildlife could be carried out by school children as suggested in the plan - it could/should be part of their biology/science course for the Junior and Leaving Certificates. Additional planting of shrubs and plants that attract wildlife (use as a foodsource) should be encouraged. An area could also be managed as a wildflower meadow/stretch. This could be carried out on one of the approach roads with only a margin well cut back and selective cutting to allow native flowers to grow.

LITTER CONTROL

There was a scattering of litter noted on the day - however this tended to be caught in grass or at overgrown grassy corners. Although there were a number of new litterbins, some of the older litter bins are broken including that beside Casual Creations on the mainstreet. The older bins need to be repainted and mended or discarded/recycled.

TIDINESS

The town was reasonably tidy. Overgrown grassy areas eg at the corner of the Athlone road, overgrown grassy approach road at Ballymore did not help towards the tidiness aspect of the town.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

On the Ballymore road, houses varied on presentation, some required their front walls painted, others had some nice floral displays. The areas in front of houses on the Athlone road (are they their gardens) require attention. Flowers and rockery look well in St Mathews Park - as do the trees. Many of the houses needed a lick of paint. Marian Terrace was fine. Houses on the Edgeworthstown road further out were well presented. A very nice thatched cottage on the road to Brannigans Harbour was noted - well done.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Mullingar approach road was well cut back - the sign also looked well though the wall on one side could have been tidied up a bit more. Roadway on Ballymore requires some work. The lead in area had not been cut back at all. The speed limit signs requires replacing. The new signs on the street looked well. It is good that they are bi-lingual. The Athlone approach was reasonable. The 40mph signs required replacement. New trees on the Longford road look well - the fencing must be difficult to maintain. The approach was good though inconsistency in hedge cutting should be addressed. Children crossing sign required attention. Edgeworthstown road was a bit run down. Longford/Westmeath Farmers Market - was reasonable presented. Planting of climbers could be considered for the surrounding wall. The GAA park had some nice climbers, however, a stone and planted area at the edge of the GAA ground seemed to be incompatible with other stone used in the area - was local stone used?

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Concentrate on a number of key areas - the canal and river amenity areas as wildlife areas, an increase in the number of floral displays in the town itself (hanging baskets and tubs and

windowboxes). One colour or co-ordinating colour displays tend to make a better impact. Also many of the speed limit signs require attention. Well done on maintaining the town in the past year. The adjudicators look forward to the implementation of some of your project ideas.