

Tidy Towns 1997

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLA**  
County : **MAYO**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 17-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	27
The Built Environment	40	24	22
Landscaping	40	24	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	31	29
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	15	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>172</b>

## **Balla, County Mayo**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your plan and photographic record as submitted. A detailed plan with yearly targets would help focus the community. A simple plan is all that is required with realistic objectives. A tidy towns committee can do so much, so ensure the work is spread out. Your square is a focal point in the town so it is vital that the new Centre, Round Tower, Square and Well improvements and other developments are in keeping with the surroundings. To keep progressing in the competition it is also important that the existing developments and general areas will not be forgotten. Traffic calming measures should also be introduced.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The national school, with its fine planting of flowers, shrubs and trees, the Funeral Home, Church grounds and planting in the parking area in front of the private house all were well presented, well done. The Bank of Ireland, The Olde Woods, McCormacks, The Rendevous, Mannions, The Shebeen, Durkans, Bridge Inn, Shell Garage are making an effort and looked well. Some of the Tennis Courts fencing requires replacement and painting, the ground area at the entrance also requires attention. The new walls around the green look very well and improve the street scape. The developments leading to the Golf Club and GAA Park look well, the development at the GAA Clubhouse is a credit.

### **LANDSCAPING**

We suggest consideration of a scheme of tree planting on Main Street, due to the very wide nature of the street, a proper programme would transform the whole area and assist the street scape by breaking the long line of houses and commercial properties. The landscaping at the monument looks well as did the hanging baskets, the square area should be developed further in conjunction with the new Centre and Tower area.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Completion of the nature trail from the Blessed Well to the GAA Park is recommended, with suitable signage is advised. The wild meadow area is noted and parklands in the area west of the town towards the Golf Club and GAA park should be explored for wildlife and natural amenities.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

There was no major evidence of litter on adjudication day but you cannot become complacent so it is important to keep a watchfull eye for litter especially as you are on a busy main road, combined with a number of back areas in the town.

### **TIDINESS**

The centre of Balla was well maintained and when work is completed on the Heritage Centre this area will look tidier, but watch this vacant area as this will become an eyesore. Back

areas need to be watched as they are not too tidy. Your efforts on weed control appear to be working.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The open area at the housing estate on the Kiltimagh road needs attention as it appears neglected and a section of the surrounding wall is knocked down. In Balla most of the residents are making an effort with painted houses and colourful gardens or flower boxes. The addition of flower boxes etc on the residential houses on Main Street would further improve this street.

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

The old stone walls on the Kiltimagh approach road should not be neglected and it is obvious some of the house owners along this road are making an effort with nice gardens. The Claremorris approach road and the stone walls looked well, we suggest some planting at the intersection of the minor road prior to the Balla sign. The Mayo Abbey approach road needs attention especially the grass verges and bushes, watch grass and weeds growing through gates from fields. A number of houses and gardens look well as you approach the Town with nice colourful garden and houses. The road from the golf club at the town end should have its grass verges, hedges and walls attended to, some screening should be considered along this area at the rear of main street properties. The Castlebar approach road looked well with its flower beds and grass margins attended to.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Balla has great potential and the proposals as outlined in the existing plan will effect all the community, the effort will be worth it in the end but it will take a number of years and good planning is important. Keep up the good work.