

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLINROBE**  
County : **MAYO**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 17-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	18	18
The Built Environment	40	23	22
Landscaping	40	22	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	12
Litter Control	40	15	16
Tidiness	20	10	9
Residential Areas	30	11	11
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	19
General Impression	10	6	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>133</b>

## **Ballinrobe, County Mayo**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

We would strongly recommend you draw up a five year plan. The plan need not be a sophisticated document and advise is available from the various agencies. This programme would identify various works to be undertaken year by year. The plan should be modified as circumstances dictate, and should help focus the efforts of all the community and give them a sense of involvement in their Town. If Ballinrobe is to improve its position in the overall competition over the coming years the wider community in the town will have to support the efforts of the Tidy Towns Committee.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The Old Church of Ireland building now the Library looks well, however the grounds require attention due to weeds and tall grass. The Garda Station looks neglected and requires painting. The Town Hall building requires attention, the Church and Grounds looked well. The proposed redevelopment at the old rugby club will help to improve this building and area. The proposed development of the old estate house and grounds will further enhance the immediate area and add a fine feature to the town. A good number of commercial properties looked well on adjudication day, a selection included: Jennings, Collerans, Market House Tavern, O'Neills, AIB, Bank of Ireland, Murphys, St Judes, Statoil Station, M Flannery, Joanne Hynes Pharmacy. The Community School and grounds looked well. The replacing of plastic signage around the town should be continued and encouraged.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The effort by business and private houses with flower boxes and hanging flower baskets adds colour to the buildings and improves the streetscape and is to be complimented. The flowers and shrub bedding on approach roads especially at the welcome signs is colourful and looks very well. The area along the Bowers Walk is well maintained, the planting of additional trees along this area should be considered.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Ballinrobe with its Robe River, fine river walks and natural amenities are a fine feature and resource to have on one's doorstep. It is important that a wildlife Information Boards giving background information on the wildlife and natural amenities available in the town area be located at suitable locations. Consideration should be given to the investigation of the wildlife, woodland and wetland habitats in the area. This could be undertaken perhaps by local school pupils. Expert advise is available and details are given in your Tidy Towns contact list.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

There is still a problem with litter in the Town, two litter bins were

full to overflowing on Bowgate Street with some litter on the Street. There was also some litter in the Cornmarket area.

## **TIDINESS**

Footpaths should be kept clear of clutter and not used for storage of goods, this limits access for pedestrians, especially the disabled pedestrian. Weed control, monitoring of back areas and improving neglected properties in the town help in maintaining a tidy and neat environment.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The majority of private houses and gardens on the approach roads to the town look well, with bright colourful planting and trees, however there are some residents still not making any effort. The owners of the residential houses in the town making the effort have their houses well maintained, painted and with colourful displays of flowers.

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

Road verges require cutting back on some of the approach roads, overgrowth should be cut back especially at old stone walls. Weed control should be exercised at base of old stone walls and footpaths. Tree Planting is recommended at the Livestock Mart and the new planting at the factory building on Circular road is a good idea. There appears to be no town sign on Convent road. It is important that all the existing planted beds on roads are weeded. In general most of the approach roads to the town have improved however more work is required especially on the Ballinrobe Abbey, Claremorris and Ballyglass approach roads. The area at the intersection of the Castlebar and Ballyglass roads is very disappointing for such a focal point. The road along the river between the Neale and Kilmaine roads looked well with its seats, walls etc however the rear of the properties along this stretch should be screened off from view. The re-development of the Cornmarket area should be considered to include, seating, lighting and planting of additional trees and car parking control. The Bower walk area looked well.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

A Towns appearance is one of a number of factors which visitors and potential investors look at when they visit, and in this respect, Ballinrobe has much potential but it needs to be better harnessed and developed. A fuller commitment from all the community is needed in the years ahead for Ballinrobe to progress in the competition. It will take time and hard work but it will be worth it, plan ahead, continue with your efforts and Good Luck.