

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYCASTLE**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	21
The Built Environment	40	21	18
Landscaping	40	27	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	12
Litter Control	40	23	21
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	18
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	160	148

Ballycastle, County Mayo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

A detailed plan with yearly targets would help focus your efforts and identify areas requiring action. This may be a simple plan with realistic objectives, as a small tidy towns committee can only do so much. Perhaps your committee numbers should be increased to ensure the work is spread amongst more of the community.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It is good to see that more of the commercial premises are making an effort this year, a small example of properties that looked well include, Ceide Pottery Building, "Mary's Bakery", Polkes, Mary's B&B and Post Office. The Health Centre needs brightening up, it is vital that commercial properties keep up the effort and those slipping should be encouraged to improve their premises. Remaining plastic signs in the town should be replaced. Both Church grounds and C. of I. Hall at gate entrance looked well. Watch your un-occupied and derelict buildings, the painting efforts with some of the derelict sites is acknowledged. The Garda Station looks neglected and the derelict school looks bad.

LANDSCAPING

The tree planting around the town looks well as does the hanging baskets, flower arrangements and planting throughout the town. A scheme of tree planting along the Main Street would help the street scape of Ballycastle and would add character. The flower tubs and planting of open areas on Main Street looked very well as did the planting and tubs at the Hall.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

We await your plan for developing the wildlife and natural amenities and note your submission on native trees-sorbus and berried shrubs to encourage wildlife. Your natural hedgerows and bogs near Ballycastle lend themselves to wildlife habitats and perhaps the school children could undertake a project to identify these.

LITTER CONTROL

There was no major problem with litter on adjudication day, a constant watch is required especially on overflowing bins where provided, especially outside the church. If litter bins are in short supply perhaps the shop owners could provide them.

TIDINESS

The town looks well and tidy, but do not get complacent, side and rear entrances must be watched for tidiness, watch weeds at base of walls and paths, spot spraying occasionally is recommended.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The majority of residents are making an effort with colourful

gardens and flower arrangements, however the housing estate on the Killala approach road could look better as only a few residents are making an effort and the open space in front should be planted and the grass cut. The houses on the Downpatrick Head road looked well and the planting at the stone wall opposite was noted. The newly refurbished cottage scheme looks well and good to see it back in full use. Many of the houses on Main Street were painted and looked well, the addition of flowers on some further premises enhanced those properties.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The stone walls on the Ceide Fields approach road will look well when completed, we suggest some tree planting on the wide stretch of road prior to the town. The Crossmolina road hedging needs attention and the Ballycastle sign was partly covered by weeds. The Downpatrick Head approach road looked well, but watch the weeds at base of the stone walls. The Killala approach road looked well with its stonewalls, trees and planting. In general side and rear areas should be screened from view. Approach roads should have the grass verges cut where possible and any broken stone walls repaired and tree planting undertaken at wide sections of the road. Signs should be maintained and painted.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballycastle has potential to progress well in the competition, but it will only happen if all the community supports the efforts of the Tidy Towns Committee. Also it is necessary to develop a town plan of action for the next five years. There is no short way, it will take a number of years and hard work, but it will be worth it. Good luck.