

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINODE**
County : **MONAGHAN**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	27
The Built Environment	40	23	22
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	187	182

Ballinode, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

This adjudicator was impressed with your efforts this year. The village has an attractive setting with the river a very prominent feature. Further progress will hinge on your ability to implement the recommendations contained in the new general plan for the village which is now available to your committee. The plan will identify priority projects which will further enhance the presentation of Ballinode and in time bring you into contention for the County Award. A sustained effort with attention to detail is now required. Thank you for the detailed map - it was most helpful.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Well presented business and private properties are an attractive feature of Ballinode - the streetscape was presented well with an acceptable level of hanging baskets, window boxes and shrubs in evidence. The new footpaths when completed will add further to the enhancement of the village. The thatched cottage at the top of the village is a real gem and postcard material! The overall standard of presentation under this heading was most impressive. One minor complaint - the unoccupied house near the bridge is in need of attention.

LANDSCAPING

You have given landscaping a lot of attention this year and you are rewarded for this by way of an increase in marks. Nicely trimmed green areas, the attractive riverside park, hanging baskets, flower tubs, shrubs, trees etc. all combine to make Ballinode a village to be proud of - well done.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have tastefully developed the river area with the pitch and putt course and the riverside park - both were well manicured on adjudication day. You can further achieve progress under this heading by identifying the wildlife habitats of your catchment area and see what species of animals birds and fish these attract. Perhaps you might initially look at the river where you have already sighted a family of water hens. Should you need help the adjudicator suggest you make contact with Conservation Volunteers Ireland. Your local Tourism Officer will give you details.

LITTER CONTROL

The village was litter free on adjudication day and a good supply of litter bins was noted. Congratulations to all.

TIDINESS

The control of weed growth was satisfactory. However, on the Tydavnet Road the forecourts of some properties, including the Co-Op, could be presented better. Footpaths in some areas of the village are being renewed and when completed will add greatly to

the tidiness of Ballinode. In general the adjudicator was very pleased with your efforts under this heading.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential properties were again well presented with some houses on the outskirts of Ballinode attractively presented and landscaped with much colour and neatly trimmed lawns. As already mentioned the thatched cottage is eye catching and overlooks the equally attractive Church of Ireland.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads were neatly trimmed and in some cases green areas were carefully planted. The village name signs are a welcoming introduction to Ballinode as is the bridge over the Black Water. The public toilets were spotlessly clean - congratulations to the caretaker. Give consideration to further tree planting on all approach roads - you have again achieved a good performance under this heading. Well done.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is a very strong community involvement and this is most welcome. Continue your discussions with the ESB - do not give up. The new development plan and the completion of the village renewal programme are things to look forward to for next year. Both will provide you with a new focus that will expedite progress in the competition. Attention to detail is now a priority.