

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINLOUGH**
County : **ROSCOMMON**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-07-97

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1997 | Mark Awarded 1996 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 16 | 16 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 21 | 20 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 21 | 20 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 11 | 10 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 21 | 20 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 8 | 8 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 12 | 12 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 15 | 12 |
| General Impression | 10 | 5 | 4 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 130 | 122 |

Ballinlough, County Roscommon

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballinlough is welcome to the 1997 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the completed questionnaire. It is good to note that you have a village renewal scheme and that the wirescape along the main road in the centre of the village has been removed. The new street lighting looks exceptionally well. Ballinlough is a village with an attractive layout and streetscape and has many other positive features.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Donnellan's premises looks exceptionally well and the colour scheme here is most impressive. The dated 'Huzzar Vodka' sign should now be removed or replaced with a more attractive non-plastic, non-neon sign. A number of buildings along the main street should now take the lead offered by the Donnellan's proprietor and paint their premises in complementary colours. Work in progress in the village centre was noted and we look forward to the creation of an attractive pedestrian friendly focal point in this area. Keep up the efforts to have plastic signage and plastic canopies removed from buildings. If canopies are necessary, encourage the use of the more traditional canvas straight edged retractable type of canopy. The Garda station looks quite weatherstained and would benefit from repainting. Hopefully the new owners of the Whitehouse property will paint it in an attractive colour scheme as it is an important focal point in the townscape. The old building at the 30 mph speed limit signs on the road from the Community Centre, together with its adjoining site, looks most unsightly as do a number of corrugated roofs visible just inside the speed limit signs.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping areas around the village are attractive. The church carpark looks particularly well. The new stone walls incorporating seating at the Community Centre on the Loughlynn road is an unusually attractive development. You might consider extending your landscaping programme to feature trees on footpaths along the main street.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The standard of presentation of the Community Centre overlooking the lake with its beautiful scenic view is admirable and one especially admires the thought and care given in the careful construction of the spectator stand which is built around a tree. A wildlife survey of the town and its immediate hinterland, particularly the lake, might be conducted and used as a baseline on which to build future wildlife projects.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was reasonably good throughout the village and on approach roads. Well done! Do try to maintain and build upon this

standard.

TIDINESS

The overall appearance of the village is one of neatness and tidiness. However, weed growth on footpaths, roadside edges and along kerbs was noted. Be vigilant regarding this before it becomes a serious problem. There are still some old circus posters remaining on service poles, one dated the 16th of May; these should be removed. Dumping was noted in a field on the Ballyhaunis entrance to the town; can this be eliminated or at least screened as a minimum measure. (Note: The dumping ground is located across from Ballinlough Refrigeration Ltd.)

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most residential properties are presented to a high standard. Try to encourage people to take responsibility for the areas immediately outside of their properties. In this way they can make an important contribution to the appearance of the village.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Verges along approach roads had been neatly cut to their outside edge with some wildflowers on show along the inside edge. This is very attractive. Other than the signs for the Ballinlough Community Centre advertising the 'Big Tom' show, there appears not to be any village nameplates on the main road. This is unfortunate as the latter signs are inappropriate. The stone wall leading up to the Garda station should be refurbished. A footpath should be developed from the village centre out to the Community Centre. The remains of an old footpath have been noted; this appears to have been encroached upon by growth from the field boundary. Perhaps if the field boundary was cut back, the existing footpath could be reinstated. New stretches of footpath look well.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of the village is quite good, the village has a nice layout and features the lake as a fine natural amenity. We are looking forward to the completion of the village renewal scheme. Well done!