

Tidy Towns 1997

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLYFARNON**  
County : **ROSCOMMON**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 13-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21	20
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	20
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>165</b>

## **Ballyfarnon, County Roscommon**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Ballyfarnon is an attractive village which boasts a fine streetscape, town square and a river. It has the potential to be very successful in the competition. It is good to note from your questionnaire that a village renewal scheme is being prepared and that the overhead service cables are to be ducted. This will make a significant contribution to the overall appearance of the village. It is incorrect to say that planned work programmes are only applicable to larger centres; even the smallest centre can benefit by having a two or a three year work programme. This is how your close neighbour Keadue has been so successful in the competition to date. Such a programme does not have to be prepared professionally; any committee member group of members together can walk around the village and its environs, note the jobs that need to be completed, put it to a time frame and document it. It is recommended that this exercise be undertaken and the plan furnished with next year's application. Don't forget to include a sketch map locating work accomplished for the past year. Good luck for the future.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The majority of buildings are well presented. However, the rear facades of some buildings on the main street which are visible on entering the village from the Northern approach road could be cleaned and/or painted. The same point applies to the gable wall which features the 'Furniture and Carpets Discount Store' on the Main street which is also visible at this entrance to the village. Most buildings in the town are presented to a high standard and both the church and the school look particularly well. The beer signs on 'Conlons' and 'Shivnans' are a little outdated and might be replaced. The large gates beside the furniture showrooms could be painted or refurbished. Work in progress was noted on the Court House during adjudication. We look forward to its completion.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Young trees planted around the Square will make a significant contribution to this part of the village as they mature. Some consideration might be given to landscaping the area around the sports grounds as this looks very bare in its present condition. The wire and post fencing of the tennis courts in particular might be planted with some climbing plants (with good spaces in between plants to allow a view of activities); this would do much to take away from the shabby appearance of this fencing. Some public seating might be provided in the environs of the sportsgrounds. It is good to note that the GAA have plans to upgrade this area. Flower displays at the junction of the Sligo/Boyle road are colourful. Perhaps trees could be planted on the wide stretch of footpath along the Main Street.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Perhaps a suitable undertaking under this heading might be to

complete a wildlife survey of the village and its immediate environs, particularly along the river banks. Your future projects could then be planned around the results of the wildlife survey. It is quite possible that in clearing wildlife areas such as the river banks that you may disrupt the indigenous wildlife.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

The presentation under this heading is quite good, well done! The challenge now will be to maintain this standard.

### **TIDINESS**

The open storage of tyres at the garage on the entrance at the Keadue end of the village is unfortunate. It is hoped that this problem will be resolved in the not too distant future. It is noted, however, that this property is nicely painted and generally well presented. Footpaths throughout the village and on approach roads are generally weed free; this is a fine accomplishment. Be vigilant regarding sides and back areas.

### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Most residential properties in the village are well painted and there are some colourful flower displays on a number of properties. The boundary walls of a number of residential properties on the Boyle road into the village urgently need cleaning and/or painting. Residential properties on the 'scenic route' road are nicely presented.

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

The church carpark looks well. However, it will need to be resurfaced. Approach roads into the town together with footpaths and street furniture are all very well presented. The street furniture e.g. the newly painted white seats and white litter bin containers, look really fresh. The scenic route road which can be accessed from the centre of the Main Street should be signposted on the Main Street. A badly potholed service road should be resurfaced soon.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The general impression of Ballyfarnon is positive. It is a very pleasant environment, featuring an attractive main street and square, handsome buildings, landscaped amenity area on the river banks and other fine features. We wish you luck with future projects. Thank you for your continued participation.