

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLYFORAN**  
County : **ROSCOMMON**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	--
The Built Environment	40	20	--
Landscaping	40	24	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	--
Litter Control	40	18	--
Tidiness	20	12	--
Residential Areas	30	22	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	--
General Impression	10	6	--
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>--</b>

## **Ballyforan, County Roscommon**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Ballyforan is welcome to the 1997 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the completed questionnaire and sketch map; both were useful. Next year send in your work programme. This does not have to be professionally prepared; all it requires is that committee members make up a list of projects they wish to tackle over the next three to four years and indicate the timeframe within which they will be completed. This is a useful exercise as it ensures that a co-ordinated approach will be adopted in the overall development of the village rather than work projects being started on an 'ad hoc' basis. The village looked particularly well on the day of adjudication, the new stone wall being the most appealing feature. Thank you for your continued participation; we look forward to visiting your village again.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The stone wall along the approach and entrance at the bridge end of the end of the town is a fine addition to the built environment. The sports grounds buildings could be freshened for next year's presentation. Some boundary walls near the telephone kiosk could be painted. The church looked well. The remains of the broken plastic fascia sign on 'Kenny's' should now be removed as it serves no purpose. Perhaps the awnings here could be replaced, if they are thought to be necessary, with the more traditional canvas, straight edged retractable type of canopy. A number of properties are in need of attention including the Health Centre. Connelly's premises looks well. The Garda station and its boundary walls are in need of attention.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The green verge along the right hand side of the road on village side of the bridge could be landscaped further. The trees and shrubs inside the school grounds are maturing well. Landscaping at the Esso garage looks well.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The small wooded area inside the wall on the right hand side of the road coming up from the bridge could be featured as an amenity area highlighting its wildlife. This might be a suitable wildlife project for the community to adopt. The set of gates marking one entrance to this area needs to be refurbished. Another suitable wildlife project might be to feature a seasonal display of wildflowers on the green verges of approach roads. Perhaps the Fair Green could be developed as a recreational amenity area. The area no doubt is rich in wildlife; perhaps the committee might consider undertaking a wildlife survey and creating wildlife zones with different degrees of sensitivity from the centre of the village out. The results of this survey can then be used as a baseline study on which to plan future wildlife projects.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control was not quite as good as it could have been on adjudication day. It was not a serious problem, however, for a village this size there should have been practically no litter about.

## **TIDINESS**

Some weed growth along kerbs was noted. Again, this is not a serious problem but it should not be allowed to take hold at all. One or two areas in the village are not quite tidy; one of these is a green site located on the same side, and a little beyond, Kenny's. The derelict building located beside the Garda station doesn't look too untidy but perhaps its door apertures could be freshly painted.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

One or two houses in the village centre could be cleaned and/or painted to freshen their appearance. Dwellings with roadside boundary walls should pay particular attention to these and to their roadside areas.

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

The nameplate at the Ballyforan bridge could be refurbished. The old sign for the Village Inn B&B could be replaced with a more attractive sign or at least refurbished. Some roadside edges are in need of resurfacing. The stone wall which lines approach roads and the centre of the village looks remarkably well and is being maintained free of weed growth etc. This is a fine achievement; well done.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The overall appearance of Ballyforan is pleasant and would encourage repeat visits. There are a number of areas which need to be tackled; we wish you well with these.