

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYMOTE**
County : **SLIGO**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	25
The Built Environment	40	24	22
Landscaping	40	20	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	27	28
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	17
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	167	163

Ballymote, County Sligo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The Committee are to be congratulated on their initiative in having their development plans produced by CAAS Ltd. at the request of Sligo County Council. The plans both at stage 1 draft are the Ballymote Theme Park and Ballymote Town Study. The Theme Park is an excellent idea and the suggestion regarding a Maze and a water garden is very innovative. We wish you well with the project and look forward to its completion some time in the near future. The Town Study is an excellent document and it certainly is a blueprint for your future development of Tidy Towns in Ballymote. A most comprehensive study which should be of great assistance to the Committee. It is gratifying to know Sligo County Council and other State Agencies are fully supportive of your Plan as are the residents of Ballymote. However, do not forget the basics of the competition, one of which is to keep Ballymote and its environs litter free. Sadly litter was everywhere on adjudication day. Thanks are due to the Committee for returning the completed questionnaire and map.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There are many fine public buildings in Ballymote. The R.C. Church is a lovely building with its nice grounds and stone walls. The Graveyard beside the Church is very untidy, with grass overgrown and dumping behind the wall. The Church of Ireland is also a splendid building with its wall and treeplanting; however its grass needs trimming. The national school on the Riverstown Road is brightly painted with nice flower beds. The Ceard Scoil and Corran College looked well. Gates, however, need painting. The convent school has well presented buildings and nice grounds. St John of God's as last year looked well (new gates) as did Ballymote Castle, where an excellent job of restoration is being done. The Railway Station is really lovely; a stone building, with excellent wooden doors, floral displays and brightly painted litter bins. A credit to all concerned. Work is ongoing here and the outside yards have still to be completed. The two banks were well presented; however, they had no window boxes this year. Many of the commercial houses were extremely well presented; however as mentioned last year, the display of shop material on the pavements is not only unsightly but can be dangerous. Perry's still has a fair amount of shop goods on the pavement. Some other shops in this vicinity suffer from the same problem. The Library needs to cut back its shrubby bed and paint the seats and the building. The Funeral Home has certainly being freshened up (well done). The Community Enterprise Centre is most attractive. Other premises to catch the eye were Casey's Pharmacy, Hayden's, Picnic Basket, Scanlon's, Corner House (lovely),

Doddy's, Roger's, Johnson & Johnson and the extremely colourful Old Stand. The Cattle Mart was reasonably well presented. KIELTY'S Rock Bar could do with some flowers. The yard beside the Castle Hotel is an eyesore. Keash Inn has got a bit run down since last year.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping does not appear to be that important to Ballymote. Witness the condition of most of the approach roads. There is a nice floral display at the Railway Station and a lovely flower-shrubby area beside the little river at the Kenaghan entrance to the Town. Wall and shrubbery were well presented, but were marred somewhat by the litter in the river bed. The display of flower tubs, hanging baskets, window boxes at many of the business premises and houses in the town is a credit to all concerned. The remarks regarding trees in last year's report should be considered. The small but attractive flower bed at the entrance to Hillview Estate was noted.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

We look forward to the Wildlife projects being included in your Theme Park.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter is becoming a problem in Ballymote. There was lots of litter on the approach roads and in the town itself; whether this is caused by the upheaval of the water scheme or people do not care is a moot point. There will have to be a drive to get rid of this problem for next year. More litter bins and perhaps an awareness programme should be launched by the Ballymote Tidy Towns Committee in conjunction with Sligo County Council.

TIDINESS

Adjudication took place on Mart Day in Ballymote. As well as this the streets were being torn up for the water scheme. The effect of all this was that Ballymote was a bit untidy apart from the area in the vicinity of the Loftus Hall. The paved areas are very pleasant, but were marred by skip material on the pavement. Some untidy green areas are also visible in the town centre.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many of the private houses on the Kenaghan, Boyle, Sligo, Tubbercurry and other approaches were extremely well presented. Brightly painted houses, green lawns, lovely walls and flower displays were noted, a credit to all concerned. The small Hillcrest Estate on the Boyle Road, apart from the entrance with its flower bed and green area and some well presented houses, needs early attention. There were two derelict houses, and the remaining houses and gardens were uncared for and unkempt (ref. Your Town Study). The other estate near Corran College has some very well cared for houses and gardens, an example for

others to follow. Some dumping was noted at the green area where a County Council sign boldly states "£800 fine for illegal dumping".

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads in general were poor. Some verges had received attention but others had not. Litter was prevalent on most approach roads. The Sligo approach has a large dumping area on the right hand side of the road and the GAA Park could also do with tidying up. Most nameplates need painting. Grass is growing wild at the verges of footpaths. There are some unsightly sheds on the Kenaghan approach. There is a poor footpath on the Boyle approach and the ugly building on the right as you enter town needs attention. (this is all in your Town Study). The small derelict cottage near the Mart has received a paint and camouflage job from the Committee (Well Done).

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A good effort again by Ballymote this year. The development of the Theme Park and the implementation of your Town Study will be a great help to your ongoing endeavours. Keep up the good work.