

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLYPOREEN**  
County : **TIPPERARY SOUTH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	30
The Built Environment	40	28	26
Landscaping	40	29	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	18
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	15	13
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	26
General Impression	10	8	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>196</b>

## **Ballyporeen, Co. Tipperary**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Ballyporeen has made dramatic strides in this years competition. The scene is well set by the superbly presented approach roads and by the extensive refurbishment of splendid rubble walls. Thank you for the completed application form, copy correspondence and especially the detailed and most useful map. All proved of great value on the day of adjudication. It is good to learn that work will commence shortly on the devising of a 3/5 year development plan which will garner the support and involvement of the community at large.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Ballyporeen has a number of imposing public buildings and commercial establishments which collectively were well presented on the day. The Boys School is improved by the addition of the new railing and tree planting within the grounds. The shuttered house beside the Garda Station was a delight with its window boxes and floral displays. The Garda Station itself would be improved by emulating this fine performance. A great deal of work in progress is taking place within the village and this fact was taken into account during the adjudication. McLoughlins Bar was very colourful and well presented. The houses and commercial premises generally on Main Street were, without exception, well presented. The streets were clean and well swept, all contributing to a delightful and very positive image. The window boxes on the Centra Supermarket were particularly noteworthy. The Ronald Reagan Centre was neat and inviting, the toilets and other buildings freshly painted and well presented. The Church too contributed to an overall fine impression. The Post Office was a delight while the Girls School/Convent was, as usual, exemplary with the coloured stone being shown off to excellent effect by the well planted window boxes.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The planting of trees on the wide main street is an excellent device to soften and give added character to what might otherwise appear as a featureless road. The effect has been extremely good and compliments to all involved in the splendid presentation of the Main Street and lower Main Street areas. The treatment of the Duag River, especially at the little bridge, is a delight and with the back drop of the Park adds a splendid vista and is an important asset to the town. The very fine stone walls on the approach roads are a delight many being topped by bedding plants. This very colourful addition may prove difficult to maintain over the years and some thought might be given to the planting of hardy annual shrubs. The screening at the Co-Operative Store is quite satisfactory. The planting at the Post Office junction is an extensive area and would possibly benefit from additional suitable planting which would drape down the rubble stone frontage. We commend the superb planting outside the new red brick house on

the Clogheen road.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The Oak Park area when taken with the Duag River is an ideal area for a wide range of species of wildlife and birds. The introduction of ducks on the Duag River might be considered as they create movement and colour in an area. The hedgerow which, while cut back, on the approach road still retain a size suitable for birdlife and as such should be only selectively cut back at appropriate non-nesting times.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Localised litter is still to be found in Ballyporeen. The offending areas were the Clogheen end of lower Main Street, the approach to the river bridge at the Co-Op and around the Reagen Centre. Apart from these transgressions the streets were delightfully orderly and free of litter.

## **TIDINESS**

We have already applauded the overall tidy manner in which the centre was presented. This is particularly true of the long and broad Main street which was a delight. Some building material which did not seem to be in current use was observed. The storage of it and gravel/sand in side street locations, for any longer than is essential, should be discouraged. Irish weather conditions are ideal for the rapid growth of weeds and quite an amount have grown between the new curb stone and the road noticeably on the entrance from Clogheen. The wide road leading to Burncourt would be immeasurably improved by the provision of curbstone or other methods of delineating clearly the divide between the road itself and the verge area. It is accepted this will be difficult to achieve but with the success of the Clogheen road behind you, hopefully is, within the combined resources of the Community and Tipperary SR County Council.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The Galtee View estate was very well presented with delightful tree planting at the entrance area. The communal grassed areas were similarly well endowed with mature trees and fine floral displays. Individual gardens also contributed to a pleasing overall impression. Splendid houses on the Clogheen and Mitchelstown road also featured delightful gardens.

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

A dramatic improvement has been affected on the Mitchelstown, Clogheen and Araglen road approaches which have been referred to above. The installation of pavements and kerbs on the Clogheen approach has made this a delight especially with the extensive shrubbery as well. The hedgerows have been suitably but not excessively trimmed. The village nameplate on the Mitchelstown road is slightly obscured by the growing hedge. The streets generally have been delightfully well swept and exude an air of pleasant neatness. The extensive treeplanting and creation of shrub and flower beds on the Mitchelstown road is a major achievement and compliments to all involved.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Ballyporeen has done itself proud in this years competition. The entire community seemed to have got behind the Tidy Towns movement with the inevitable and delightful success they have achieved. Because of its layout featuring a pleasant blend of formal civic and mercantile building, augmented and inter-spaced by very well presented, private houses, Ballyporeen has the potential to achieve high honours in the National Tidy Towns Competition. All associated with this years successful entry are applauded for their efforts !

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (6/8/97)**

Ballyporeen is a charming village with a broad main street and a magnificent backdrop of scenery surrounding it. It looked very neat, fresh and tidy on the second adjudication day. The stone beds with permanent planting on the Mitchellstown approach were admired but as noted by the first adjudicator the nameplate sign to this side of the village was rather obscured by a overgrowing hedge. Piles of sand were noted in a couple of locations - building materials should be removed following completion of the work and presumably this will happen. A couple of tin sheds created a bad impression, one to the Mitchellstown side of the village and a particularly attractive curved roofed stone out building on the far side of the village. These should be painted in a traditional red or green colour to give a more cheerful impression. The curved canopy to Donovans shop could be replaced with a more traditional fabric awning. The Ronald Reagan Visitor's Centre looked very fresh in pink. Some of the derelict sites for sale along the Main Street detracted rather from the overall presentation. However, the village were virtually litter free on adjudication day.