

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYMACARBRY**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	22	24
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	25	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	17
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	13	11
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	22
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	189	177

Ballymacarbury, Co. Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

No written Development Plan, to guide the adjudicator, was submitted either this year or last. This is a great pity. As pointed out last year, the Tidy Towns Competition has adjusted its emphasis to a point where it is positively encouraging centres to give thought and energy to the development of a two or three year programme or possibly longer, for the better presentation of the centre. Ballymacarbury is a delightful village and would benefit very much from having a structure phased development approach, particularly in relation to creating a better sense of cohesion in such a long drawn out village. It is appreciated that it could be difficult to prepare such a plan, spread over three years, because much of what has been done here is continuous on-going type of care but with such a plan the Committee could more easily approach public bodies for help and advice.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the buildings in Ballymacarbury are very well presented. The housing, particularly at St. Martins Place is extremely nice and the type of floral displays are excellent and very much in keeping with this rural atmosphere. Melodys Bar is very successful and almost creates a centre in the village. St. Patrick's Hall is good though the doorway still needs attention. Waterford Co-Op is very well screened from the village and the newly reconstructed building looks extremely well with sandstone, brick and fine windows. It would be nice to think that the remainder of the complex would be similarly reconstructed in time. Their adjoining shed on the main road contrasts badly with the rest of the village. The yard in which fertilisers etc. are stored, could easily be screened with solid screening. Doogleys Bar looks very well and is in keeping with the rest of the village. There is a very pleasantly developed car park opposite Melodys Bar and Equestrian Centre. The seating enhances the atmosphere. It is suggested that some litter bins be provided as there was some litter in the grassed area adjoining the car park. The bridge coming into the town is very successful with its yellow and black markings. At the other end of the village the grotto is a very pleasant, tranquil little spot, and is well tended.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping within the village is very satisfactory fitting in very well into this rural environment. The landscaping of the individual houses is first class and their choice of planting is good. A few trees could be planted in the car park opposite Melodys Bar with advantage

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

One cannot appreciate and see the river Nire from the main road but it is very lovely looking down on it with its shingle beach and small rapids and the sound of water is most pleasing. Because of

the tranquillity of the village this is a place to expect and to see wild life as one is encouraged to with the river and picnic area. It is suggested that a riverside walk from Melody's Bar to the Co-Op could possibly be considered and the long term planning could be carried out over a number of years. The whole atmosphere of the village is working with the environment rather than against it.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter is well controlled. There was a little in the car park but this could easily be overcome by providing litter-bins as mentioned previously.

TIDINESS

Almost everything in this delightful, tranquil village has the air of being well tended and cared for. The verges and banks on the entry roads are all nicely trimmed. Traffic signs, road markings and markers are all well kept.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residential housing is of a very high order. St Martins Place is particularly attractive. All the gardens are tastefully landscaped with colour schemes that relate very well to this tranquil, rural atmosphere.

ROADS, STREET AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads are extremely pleasant with uniformly well tended hedges and verges. As already mentioned, the bridge, at one end and the grotto at the other make very attractive entry points. The village name was very well presented.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballymacarbry is an extremely pleasant tranquil village that obviously takes great pride in its environment. It was a great pleasure to visit such an attractive village and all concerned are to be highly commended. It would be much appreciated if next year the entry form could be completed and some information given on the activities and workings of the Tidy Town Committee, the level of liaison with public bodies and the extent to which support is got from the community in general.