

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINAGH**
County : **CAVAN**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	29
The Built Environment	40	22	20
Landscaping	40	25	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	9	11
Litter Control	40	10	10
Tidiness	20	7	5
Residential Areas	30	15	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	15	16
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	137	139

Ballinagh, County Cavan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

You have not maintained the high level of performance achieved last year, however, whilst some improvements have been noted an integrated approach is now desirable. A higher level of community support and regular consultation with your County Council engineer is necessary to implement a more balanced programme of activities. Attention to detail and a response to the comments contained in this and previous reports will improve your rating in the competition. Thank you for the very detailed reply to the questionnaire and the accompanying map.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Business premises in the village continue to improve in presentation and this must be very encouraging to the Tidy Towns Committee. Ronnies, Centra, Spar, Caseys, Lowry's McDiarmada and Sheridans are all deserving of special mention as is the "white pub with no name". Dereliction remains a problem and the market house which has a very prominent location in the town remains an eyesore - do encourage the owners to respond to the Tidy Towns initiative. The stone boundary walls of the Community Centre were much admired, however, an untidy forecourt detracts from the overall presentation. An improved performance under this heading has been rewarded with an increase in marks. Well done.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping in the village did not look well on adjudication day. The need for attention to detail in this regard was very obvious i.e. overgrown grass and planting that required weeding. Planting at the GAA Park and Construce in particular needed attention and the greater use of window boxes and hanging baskets on the main street would add greatly to the environmental features already in place. The young trees are maturing nicely and will in time greatly enhance the village providing they are well maintained. Give landscaping a priority in next years work programme and identify new areas.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The car park opposite the Church on the Cavan Road is poorly presented with broken fencing, bad surface and dumped materials. The picnic areas on the approach to Construce Estate also required attention and the area of the river and bridge was most disappointing. As a Tidy Towns Committee you have an important role to play in protecting

and enhancing the wildlife value of Ballinagh and its environs. Start by identifying and signposting wildlife habitats and incorporate same in a nature trail which will attract additional visitors to the area. For guidance you should make contact with ENFO or Conservation Volunteers of Ireland. As mentioned in last years report "Ballinagh is in a lucky position in terms of environmental issues"

LITTER CONTROL

Litter was very much in evidence on the main street and this is most unsatisfactory. Do promote an anti litter awareness campaign without delay and engage the support of schools and voluntary organisations. A poor performance despite the warnings contained in last years report.

TIDINESS

While some improvement was noted the problem of weed growth at kerbs, boundary walls and open areas still remains. As already mentioned the car park on the Cavan Road and the open space in front of the Community Centre are major problems under this heading. The area of the river and GAA Club also require attention and the untidy display of goods at the Market House should be discouraged.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential premises in general were presented well and some with nicely decorated floral displays and lush green lawns. The entrance to Construce Estate was poorly presented and detracts from the environmental feature now in place. Weeds at kerbs in both Construce and Marian estates were noted. If not already in place the Tidy Towns Committee should encourage residents to set up "Residents Associations" who would implement a maintenance work programme in conjunction with the Tidy Towns Committee.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

In general all approaches to the village need up-grading in presentation - overgrown verges, badly presented boundary areas, untidy forecourts and signposting in need of replacing or repairs - create an uncared for appearance. Monitor on a regular basis the condition of street furniture i.e. litter bins, telephone kiosks, signposting etc.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Progress is slow - The Village Renewal Programme implemented by the Cavan County Council is a major boost. You must now respond to this by greater participation at

local level.