

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINODE**
County : **MONAGHAN**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	26	23
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	19
Litter Control	40	32	30
Tidiness	20	14	11
Residential Areas	30	24	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	22
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	195	187

Ballinode, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed questionnaire and most effective map, these were very helpful. As part of the competition you are requested to include a proposed long-term work programme for the village. A clear and simple 3/5 year plan, outlining achievable targets for the committee, will help focus your work in the future, and helps the adjudicator to measure your progress. The committee is obviously thinking along these line already, having outlined some future plans for the village in the questionnaire.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The presentation of both commercial and public premises in the centre of the village, was generally excellent, with brightly painted premises, well maintained and many lovely floral features. The Church of Ireland, surrounding grounds and lovely stone wall looked very well as did the attractive thatched house opposite. Ballinode Co-op needs to be tidied up. Miller International looked well, with a very tidy yard. The old mill is an attractive stone building that also needs to be tidied up, along with a number of other older buildings outside the immediate village area. Both the museum and community centre looked well presented and maintained, with attractive floral features on the day of adjudication.

LANDSCAPING

Both the landscape features and trees on the approach roads were well cared for, and attractively presented. Trees throughout village were well chosen and maintained. The flowerbeds also looked well. It might be worthwhile to consider including more perennial shrubs, and plants that provide a good mix of colour and content to last the whole year round. The seat opposite Ballinode Co-op needs its paint refreshed. The riverside park area, is a very attractive feature, beautifully maintained, with the river itself clean and free from any debris. The new railings look lovely, as did the new kerbing at the Scotstown entrance. The new wall and footpath on the Monaghan Road will look very well when the project is fully completed. The pump is a lovely feature that is worthy of the facelift planned, and will enhance this area of the village further.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

This is a new category in the competition. There are many opportunities for enhancing and conserving wildlife habitats and the environment within the village. Ballinode is fortunate to have a lovely site in the centre of the village, and is the first and obvious choice for developing as a wildlife area. It is clean and accessible. Open spaces, riversides, meadow and grass areas and

hedgerows offer additional opportunities. The Committee should work in conjunction with relevant local bodies, or a local wildlife expert to develop this area. This adjudicator was unable to gain access to Quiglough and assess its potential as a natural amenity, but if it is generally accessible it could also be considered. The Tidy Towns Committee has an important role to play in preserving the natural amenities of the village.

LITTER CONTROL

There was almost no litter in evidence anywhere in the village on the day of adjudication, and there was an adequate supply of well-maintained litterbins. Well done, but it is important that everyone must remain vigilant in this important area.

TIDINESS

The overall impression of was one of general tidiness. The attractive landscaping and well-maintained premises contributed to this impression. However, it is important that all areas of the village are kept tidy and weed free, including forecourts, back yards, kerb edges, all open spaces, and areas between properties. One example of an area needing attention is the area opposite the Petrol Pumps which is obvious from the road and needs attention. There are some buildings that need to tidy their presentation on the outskirts of the village area for example those past the Riverside Park on the Monaghan Road and the farm buildings on the corner.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The vast majority of houses throughout the village and on the approach roads were very well presented, with attractive hedges, lawns and flower features. The beautiful and colourful flowers in some individual gardens were noted. Well done for the hard work to those responsible.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All the approach roads were generally well maintained, and tidy, with an attractive village welcome sign, good quality road surfaces, and footpaths.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The adjudicator was highly impressed with the overall presentation of Ballinode. It is a most pleasant and attractive village, whose community takes great pride in its environs. Try to involve the community and local organisations when drafting your future work programme. Continue to foster co-operation with local bodies and organisations that may be able to help with advice and ideas in many areas of the competition. You are a small committee, but your efforts to date are a good advertisement to the rest of the community. Well done and keep up the good work