

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLINAGARE**  
County : **ROSCOMMON**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	17	16
The Built Environment	40	17	17
Landscaping	40	12	11
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	10
Litter Control	40	13	12
Tidiness	20	9	8
Residential Areas	30	13	12
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	17	17
General Impression	10	5	4
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>107</b>

## **Ballinagare, County Roscomman**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

A number of improvements have been made since last year and it is good to know that you have a FAS scheme happening. This should help with some of your proposed projects. Traffic still speeds through the village and, no doubt, you are endeavouring to find solutions to this.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The exterior of the church looks well but some attention could be given to the gates. The area opposite the church would certainly benefit from the provision of a garden and hopefully the school will be able to set this up this year. Good luck with the works. The surrounding wall is weatherstained and no doubt you will be giving this attention also. There are some old ESB poles on the side road and these should be removed. The road could be tidied up generally. There is a well maintained house at the top of this road and it has a good display of flowers.

### **LANDSCAPING**

There is evidence of wall building on the Frenchpark Road with an old cottage nearby. There is a good display of flowers and shrubs across from the cottage. There is what looks like a ruined church on the left at Frenchpark Road which is unsightly. This could benefit in the short term if the rusted farm machinery/tractors were removed or screened off. On the approach from Tulsk the old ruined farm buildings are now painted grey which improves them a lot but the peacock colour on top of walls tends to draw the eyes unfavourably to the ruins. It would be better if the grey colour were maintained overall as it would then blend in with the background. The old forge now looks better with the white and green paint. It would be nice if this could be re-constituted and made a feature in the village - maybe the new owner might be persuaded to give thought to this. The new stone-surrounded flower beds look good. The Post Office, which is newly painted, looks good but could benefit from some flower baskets or tubs - this may already be planned as the painting seemed to have just been completed. The telephone box is improved somewhat. Since it is an old style box it should get even more attention. The growth in the field opposite the PO should also be cut back to the level of the wall. All business premises should be encouraged to maintain the paintwork on their premises. The B/B looks good but the area behind the green gates should be tidied up. Side entrances and access yards to all buildings should be tidied up and weeded. Bus Eireann should be asked to provide a new bus stop as the current one is battered and rusty and, while the building looks good, the lantern should be improved or removed.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Perhaps you might encourage the FAS group to think of a creating a wildlife garden or do a survey of the wildlife in the village.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Generally good during time of visit. The stone bridge on the Strokestown road looks good but there is some litter near flower beds and on the banks of the river - this should be removed. This area could be monitored during weekly clean up. Only saw three litter bins in total - could do with some more.

## **TIDINESS**

New walls will made a big difference and it is good to know that you have a good response from residents to keeping the village clean and weed free. All verges on side roads should be kept cut other than where there are wildflowers in evidence. Shrub beds on Castlerea road should be weeded and, where seating is provided, it should be maintained. This is a nice idea and could look very good. The village pump still needs attention and could be made a good focal point especially if the garden nearby was kept trim.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The majority of private dwellings looked well but property owners should be encouraged to keep surrounding areas trim and weed free.

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

New wall on road to graveyard looks good and FAS project at graveyard should improve that area quite a lot. Stone welcome sign on Castlerea approach road looks good but stone on approach from Tulsk is set too low and is difficult to see.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The overall impression is of ongoing interest in improving the area and we wish you luck with your projects.