

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLINAGORE**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	29
The Built Environment	40	23	22
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	15
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	15	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	21
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>172</b>

## **Ballinagore, Co. Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Your application, information, maps and photographs were superb in their presentation and the adjudicators thank you very much for the time and effort put into this. Your report on work carried out in 1997 is good and well done on work completed. Your plan for 1997-2000 read well and is achievable. Being set out simply, it is easy to see when progress has been made. It was heartening to read about the close co-operation between the school and also members of the community. The adjudicators also noted comments on problems of derelict houses. The shelter area with notice of the Tidy Towns meetings in the centre of the village was noted. You certainly have a positive attitude and this shows in your approach.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The school in its prominent position on the main road was well presented. It is unusual for a school to be painted such a colour, though it works well. The carpark area was neat and tidy, and stone walls will look well when completed. Mahons was nicely painted though the exterior wall will need a repainting before next year. Vivios was satisfactory. The pump was also well painted though consideration should be given to perhaps a more traditional approach to the colour of paint and use of more than one colour.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The landscaping on the Liskelly road was good, however, the adjudicators would question the presence of the wooden picnic table. A designated picnic place could be beside the river ( and perhaps this could also be signposted?) . It is unlikely there would be much use of it in its present location. The use of more permanent planting should also be considered eg herbaceous perennials and shrubs in order to create a more permanent framework. There is still scope for the use of more colour (one/two colours make greater impact) in the form of planters/hanging baskets etc. Do allow some selective natural vegetation to grow on the stone walls. The landscaping opposite the old Oifig An Phoist is also commended. There was a nice contrast between marsh/meadow and the formal landscaping either side of the river area.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The village is fortunate in its location with three important habitats on its doorstep - the river/freshwater, the marsh meadow and the wood. Liaisons with the relevant authorities and expertise will direct your involvement with the wildlife habitats. The walk down by the wood is very pleasant. School children could be

encouraged to become involved in drawing up an inventory of each habitat - this could be done in conjunction with classes in the school.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The village was very clean and was almost litter free on the day of adjudication - well done. The simply painted, black litter bins looked very well

## **TIDINESS**

Due to ongoing work on walls etc. the village was not totally tidy with building sand on view, however, materials used were well contained and the adjudicators look forward to the completion of work and the removal of left-over material. There was a rusty barrel under the bridge which should be removed and a rusty pole opposite the Castletown road which should either be removed or repainted - what is its purpose?

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The residences at Liskelly were generally well presented, however, building material here should be removed from outside gates when work is completed. The houses on the main street and leading off the main street looked well. The house opposite the petrol station was freshly painted and had some nice window boxes. The house/villa style beside the river also stands out.

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

There is no sign on the Liskelly road. On the Mullingar road there was a nice bank of wild flowers on approach to the village. The adjudicators hope that this is not the area that is intended for landscaping. Formal landscaping should only ever occur in the centre of a rural village - on the outskirts there should be natural merging into the surrounding countryside. The Tyrellspass road was excellent in presentation. There was lovely planting, nice seating and a long lead in of stone walls. On the Castletown road, which was well cut back, the planting is a bit fussy. The more you plant/landscape the more maintenance is required. Wild flower or informal planting may be more suitable. It was good to see that wildflowers had not been cut, on parts of this approach. This road requires further attention though generally.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The work carried out this year and plans for future development show good progress - well done. Although the day was rainy and grey, the village looked well. Perhaps a small map could be drawn up outlining areas of interest/history etc. of the area.