

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINAHOWN VILLAGE**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	38
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	211	209

Ballinahown, Co. Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

This is a charming village and has progressed well in the competition over the last few years. Your plan sets out a number of aspects which intend to be addressed. These will see a significant improvement in the village. The idea of a sculpture trail is interesting - have you seen any other trails such as these in place/operation? The plan gives direction and in creating uniqueness by the development of a sculpture trail and nature trail, and enhancing the village through the planting of ash trees will create a pleasant place on a very important roadway to Clonmacnoise and the Shannon Bog Railway.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church grounds and the parochial house looked very well. Building material in the church carpark opposite required removal. The school looked very well and was beautifully landscaped. Please pay attention to tree maintenance which should be ongoing. A dead tree here required removal. The Post Office looked well though it would look better if some of the signs/advertising were removed. Hanging baskets could also be considered here. The Garda station was also well presented

LANDSCAPING

It was good to see the use of mainly shrubby plants in landscaping. This creates a more structured framework on which to work and is year round in presentation. They do however need to be maintained and pruned and this should be taken into consideration. Further planters preferably in one/two complementary colours would enhance the village further.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The wooded area is a pleasant wildlife habitat. The development of a nature trail is commendable, however, before development commences, assess as to who will use this trail. An active use by local people, use in the school as part of the curriculum is essential if it is to be successful and beneficial to the local community.

LITTER CONTROL

A few pieces of litter were noted on the road to Clonmacnoise and in the school grounds. Due to the general high presentation of the village, even one or two pieces stand out. Litter bins were well in evidence and were used.

TIDINESS

The village was neat and tidy on the day of inspection, however, building material that has been used after work is completed should be removed - e.g. carpark and Athlone road.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are a number of finely painted residences in Ballinahown. They included a white and green house on the Clonmacnoise road and the whitewashed house at the Ferbane junction. The broken fence under the hedge at the small housing estate should be repaired. The pink wall of a residence on the Ferbane road requires repainting preferably in a different colour. The housing estate on the Clonmacnoise road was satisfactory in presentation.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Ferbane road was reasonable. Dead grass should be removed as it gives an untidy appearance. The Athlone road and Clonmacnoise road were well presented, the former having some fine stone walls and nice landscaping.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Attention to detail is required. At this level of the competition, all details are taken into consideration.. Care should be taken in the ongoing weeding of landscaped areas and the dead-heading of roses. Well done on work completed and the adjudicators look forward to the developments set out within the plan.