

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYKEERAN**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	24
The Built Environment	40	20	20
Landscaping	40	21	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	23	22
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	18
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	153	151

Ballykeeran, Co. Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the information that you gave relating to work being carried out by FAS. Do not become too reliant on FAS schemes. The village should also have a simple development plan which is compiled by the people of the village and has input from all concerned. The location of the village is important as it is on a main thoroughfare and is on the route of many visitors. A map would have been useful to the adjudicators.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Mill house looks well - this is now a residence? The Dog and Duck was well presented and it looked as though work had recently been carried out on it. The carpark area beside the rose bed on the road from Athlone still needs attention and clearing, and the rusty gate beside the rose bed detracted from it.

LANDSCAPING

The area beside the rose bed looked very well. The roses really suit the area and it was good to see that ferns had been left to grow against the stone wall. The area immediately beside the phone box requires reseeding. This was the only landscaping of note in the village. What are your plans for the future ? Some shrubby area on the Ballymahon approach would look well.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The adjudicators look forward to the development of a wildlife area. The stream and wooded area must be a haven for wildlife. Bird houses/tables could be utilised by the residents to encourage birds. Wildflower planting as well on the approach roads out from the village would also create a nice welcome though these areas also have to be managed

LITTER CONTROL

Only a couple of papers were noted on the day of judging though there was a deficit of litter bins and this should be rectified.

TIDINESS

The village was reasonably tidy though debris left in the carpark created an untidy air here.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Houses in the village were generally well presented. The thatched cottage up the side road really looks well and the houses on the

Athlone road had good front boundary areas and gardens.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads were not good. The Ballykeeran sign on the Athlone side was obscured by long grass. The river road features a nice stone wall and the small cottage on this road being restored will look well when completed. The Ballymahon road although cutback, had grass left everywhere which was dead and looked untidy.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village is small in size so every detail and development is noticed. Concentrate on or two areas including litter and tidiness and you will progress in the competition. A programme would help to prioritise areas.