

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLYMORE**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	28
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>173</b>

## **Ballymore, County Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you very much for the most beautifully written information on Ballymore and the map. The adjudicators found it most interesting and useful. The plan is focused and not too ambitious. Ballymore is steeped in history and heritage and the unusual nature of how it has grown over time is its uniqueness.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The village looked well on the day of adjudication. There has always been the problem of dereliction though this is being overcome in recent years. The area beside the Midland Health Centre requires cutting and a dead tree needs removing. The Village Inn looked well as did the community centre. What about single colour hanging baskets here to make an impact against the grey? The Post office was well presented in a simple fashion. Cunninghams had a nice traditional approach, the Fair Green Restaurant was pleasant and there were some fine hanging baskets outside Rooney's. The telephone box needs a facelift and it is suggested that when the seating in the village is repainted that one colour only be used. The Ritz requires attention and the development in front of the School will look well when complete. Are the shell petrol pumps in High Street in use? At the other end of the town the Roman Catholic Church was finely presented.

### **LANDSCAPING**

This is an extraordinarily long village set in a rural area and this must be taken into account when landscaping. Rather than the use of annuals, herbaceous perennials or preferably shrubs should be used as they require less maintenance and are more cost effective in the long term. Planting under tree areas is difficult and is not effective as annuals/plants suffer from poor levels of light and do not perform well. This summer plants have also to contend with low amounts of sunlight too. Trees should also be maintained and dead trees should also be removed where ever they occur e.g. in High Street opposite Martins.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The wildlife area within the environs of the village contain several habitats such as hedgerow, meadow and freshwater. Concentrate on - perhaps Lough Sewdy, carry out a resource analysis and plan at how the area can be conserved and enhanced. Well done to the person with the bird boxes outside the shop. Residences throughout the village should be encouraged to be a bird friendly village.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

May be it was due to the length of the village and the way in which it stretches out, but there were several pieces of litter - outside Cunninghams and along the middle of the village. There were however a good number of litterbins and these were well maintained.

## **TIDINESS**

The village was generally tidy, however building materials should be removed once work has been completed. Obviously if work is going on there is an excuse for their presence.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The presentation of houses varied though some did stand out. A fantastic display of geraniums made a great impact outside a home on High Street. The house opposite the pump had a very pleasing display of flowers as well as on the adjoining wall. There were well landscaped houses on the road to Moate from the High Street.

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

The Moate road was well cut back and presentable as were the roads to Moyvore and to Athlone. Perhaps the hedges along the road in the centre joining the residential areas could be managed to include further wildflowers and enhance the village further. Church Lane should also be signposted when work is completed as it is such an historic area.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The presentation of the village on the day it was adjudicated was generally good. Good luck with your proposed developments and the preservation of heritage in the area.