

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLYNACARGY**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-98

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1998	Mark Awarded 1997
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	18	18
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>165</b>

## **Ballynacargy, County Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the map, it was useful for judging purposes. The adjudicators look forward to the completion of the plan. It has, they hope significant input from the local community as to the way they see their village developing. They also noted the problems that the Committee encounter with regards to present developments. The village is very lucky in being dominated by such a lovely part of the canal and therefore has great potential in what it has to offer both the local community and visitors. Well done on work carried out this year.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Buildings were variable in presentation. Those on the main street stood out. The derelict building on the corner looked as though work was being carried out on it. Now that it is listed as a dangerous building, something has to be done to prevent an accident happening. The School of the Rathowen road looked well, however the fencing around the police station required repainting. The pumps in the village looked freshly painted. There were good displays of flowers outside McGuinness and Murtaghs. Munnelys, Connollys Family Butcher and O' Chonghaile looked very well indeed. The use of Irish in particular on O'Chonghaile is commendable and suited the traditional pub front well. The Community Hall looked fine and the Church on the corner is excellent. Moynihan GAA Park further out will require repainting in the future and the carpark was weedy with the removal of sand required.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The landscaping around the canal looked well, but must be very laborious to maintain. Do consider the use of native flowers and shrubs and hence creation of a natural habitat. This would require less maintenance in the long run. The harbour area was cut back though grassy areas had been left around the trees which took away from them. Stone troughs in the village looked well, however a greater use of perennials should be considered especially to overcome years such as this when the lack of sun has contributed to poor flowering. Although they may be more expensive initially, they last a great deal longer if cared for correctly. Seek advice from those who are green-fingered in the community.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The village has a wealth of wildlife habitats emanating from the canal. This seemed in good condition with many water lilies and

other flora evident. Children were also swimming up at the lock on the day of judging despite the rain and grey skies. A resource analysis as to what is inhabiting the canal from the smallest water beetle through to visiting herons and the different flora could be carried out in conjunction with the local school as part of their science lesson. Proposals should also be included as to how to enhance and conserve the area for the future. This information could form the basis of a leaflet for the village which could be available to walkers of the Royal Canal Way.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Unfortunately the canal area was marred by several pieces of litter in the water and also a few pieces on the main street. The number of litterbins available seemed reasonably maintained. Education and campaigns run through schools do help to develop and awareness would be useful.

## **TIDINESS**

The graffiti on the lock gate detracted from the area and should be removed. There was also some regrowth of weeds in the gutter area and this did create a less than tidy street. Grassy areas around trees were also untidy. However, overall the village looked reasonably well.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The presentation of the houses on the Castletown road were variable in presentation - some were well planted, however some front walls required repainting. The condition of the Rathowen estate was tidy, but again here the walls required repainting. Other individual houses looked fine.

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

The approach roads were satisfactory - the Mullingar road though well cut back had some litter along it. The Rathowen road with its fine approach of trees looked well. The Castletown road was probably the road that required the most attention. The Longford road looked well, though it is desirable to bring the tidy element out to the village sign if possible.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The village of Ballynacargy is set in a beautiful location. It has several problems - some dereliction, problems with work practices etc. The development plan will give a sense of focus and direction and hopefully progress can be made and problems overcome in the future. Best of luck with future work.