

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLON**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	28	29
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	202	201

Ballon, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The heavy traffic with associated noise, fumes and damage presents difficulties for Ballon. There is great credit due to the very small committee for achieving all they have in the circumstances. An overall plan to set out all the potential projects that could be undertaken would be most useful now. These could then be tackled one by one. Co-operation and goodwill with residents and local authorities will also be helpful.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As before there is a well maintained appearance to both the commercial and private premises in the village. The old school, credit union, both church and school are in good condition. Stonework is an important feature in Ballon and it is good to heighten this attribute by continuing to use stone. All stone restoration works are so worthwhile.

LANDSCAPING

There has been good planting in the village over the years. The hornbeam trees by the roadside are at a very attractive stage now and look well. The many shrub plantings throughout the village roadsides give a cheerful and well cared for appearance. As shrubberies age some renovation will be needed. Grassweeds in these shrubberies and kerbside weeds both need constant vigilance.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Discussions with local school and local interested people will establish the best approach to the utilisation of the wildlife and natural amenities of the area. There is always a possibility of riverside, woodland or wetland nearby which could be made accessible and interesting in this regard.

LITTER CONTROL

With the passing traffic, litter will continue to be a problem. This is true of everywhere in Ireland. Constant vigilance and education of school children in particular will be helpful. Pinpoint the worst places or places that litter can get trapped – such as at wire mesh fences and deal with these.

TIDINESS

Ballon has a tidy appearance. There is an untidy site opposite the school at the corner and some fences need repairing. The lay-bys are also a little untidy and could be improved a little.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The housing estate is attractive and well cared for homes and gardens contribute so much to the overall appearance of a village.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Some roadside pavements are in the course of construction. This is good. The demarcation of the lay-bys and the condition of their surface leaves a little to be desired. Road speed calming measures are necessary and the present system is not fully effective.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballon is an attractive village with all the planting of roadside trees and shrubs that has been done over the years. There is a very cared for appearance and the continued work will further enhance the village.