

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINASLOE**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	25	26
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	198	197

Ballinasloe, County Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The overall developmental approach is based on long rather than short term plans. Much is being done to improve the infrastructure and through ongoing staged developments, the town will reach its goals. Impressive plans are being implemented and several new projects have been completed. The revamped tidy town committee has brought a new enthusiasm and has identified a specific list of projects to be undertaken over the next three years.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The difficulty Ballinasloe has is the absence of a focal point for its built environment. The commercial and residential buildings along its main streets, Dunlo, Main and Society Streets, and the principle buildings, the Railway Station, the hospitals, the courthouse the town hall and the churches are widely dispersed and need connecting routes to gain impact as a whole and integrated part of Ballinasloe's heritage. The very commendable plans being actioned by the committee includes the redevelopment of St. Michaels Square which has potential to form a focal point through which integrated presentation can be achieved. Most of the commercial buildings are well presented but suffering from signage clutter.

LANDSCAPING

The approach roads to the town are generally good with tree plantations and hedgerows. There are some pleasant floral displays at Sli an hAbhann, the Portumna Road, and Mount Bellew Road. The screening of the Co-Op Mart on the Mount Bellew Road is very effective. The completion of the Famine Park is a delightful addition to the town's amenities. The prospect of work completion at St. Michaels Square with its attractive lamp standards and trees will open a fine aspect to St. Michael's Church, The Shoeing Stone, and nearby park amenity area. The inclusion of tree plantations along the main commercial streets would do much to improve their presentation. Presentation of the Fair Green was somewhat disappointing. Grass needed to be trimmed, railings painted, weeds removed from between hard path.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The park development between Bridge Street and the UDC Offices is most attractive. It is presumed the 'cutting' from the Suck which is stagnant will be returned to a flow and that the two underpasses will become a feature of old bridge construction and provide nesting etc. for bird and wildflower.

LITTER CONTROL

By and large litter was reasonably well controlled, but incidence took a dramatic turn for the worse near fast food outlets. Supermac packs were in evidence even in the fountain in the Famine Park and its adjoining car

park.

TIDINESS

Wirescape is a problem and the front of the car park gives a cluttered impression. Some, if not all of the commercial signage, particularly at the Suck Bridge is most unsightly. Public toilets near the amenity park should be removed. It was good to see the recycling facilities in the well kept car park adjacent to the UDC offices.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

As last year, residential areas were well presented and reflected the participation in the National Spring Clean Month - for which the committee are commended.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Access roads to the town are generally well presented, with grass margins trimmed and a pleasing array of trees. Ahascragh Road is still suffering from development works and it will be next year at least before it is back in order. Improvements have been made to stone walls at a number of locations including the Portumna and Ahascragh roads. The wall to the left of the River Suck Bridge is broken and temporarily filled in with metal gate. The area in close proximity to DuBarrys is particularly good.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballinasloe tidy towns committee is very well organised and the result is an organised approach to the tidy towns needs of the town. It has adopted a long term approach to the various projects in hand and no doubt will achieve its goals.