

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINGARRY VILLAGE**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	29	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	28	27
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	193	190

Ballingarry, County Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning entry form. You do not say if you have a 3-5 year plan. If not you should consult with the relevant agencies and formulate a working plan that will have the agreement of the community. You have a large area to cover, relevant to the population and many of the new developments will demand a lot of maintenance i.e. the town park. You have some very attractive traditional features in and around the village and it is imperative that you retain the rural ethos of the village in planning new developments. The village environs are typical of a pleasant rural backdrop and some views are really stunning. The adjacent Knockfierna is legendary - a pity about the dire intrusion on the hilltop.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The village would benefit from a painting blitz and the pockets of dereliction and unoccupied houses are keeping your marks down. There is no progress on the Garda Barracks. You should send a copy of this report to O.P.W. in an effort to get some action. The traditional features at Sheehys Post Office are now quite rare. Fresh painting of this premises would be most beneficial. The Catholic Church, a most imposing building, serves as a great introduction to the village. There is no progress on the rusty corrugated roof adjacent to the hostel - a day's work would see this right. The newly developed Tierneys Foodstore is well presented together with the Maxol Filling Station. Scoil Christ is really excellent and reflects great credit on teachers and pupils. Also the Parochial Hall looks well, but the open space beside it is a let down. Could the library be given a face-lift for next year.

LANDSCAPING

The town park needs to be finished. Remember the better the finish the easier the maintenance. This is a magnificent challenge for the community and will now form part of an important entrance to the village. In general, approach roads are well presented and the mix of stone walls and grass margins and tree planting is admirable.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES.

This might best be tackled by a school project to focus attention on the wild animal and birdlife of the area and then try to link in with the environs of the village.

LITTER CONTROL

Other than small parcels of litter the village was clean. Some litter was observed on the wall of the attractive park beside the Church of Ireland Church. Some crisp bags were in evidence on the approach from Croom. However, you are to be complimented for your efforts in this section.

TIDINESS

The many derelict buildings unoccupied houses and unattended houses are keeping your marks down. The oldest building in the village - the castle, is also the worst presented. You should arrange to get it into state care, as it has some fine features and many additional distinctions not unusually associated with tower houses. The access is almost hidden, but it is acknowledged that it is in private ownership and probably beyond the influence of the local committee.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

You have a mixed standard here and many houses are in need of painting. You should try and organise the residents into doing a painting blitz. Some of the older houses in the village have great character but lack colour. The Mustard Seed is of a quality seldom reached by commercial premises and a standard for others to pursue.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Side streets are now an important part of the competition and should be given the attention they deserve. This extends to farm gates and yards. Try and encourage residents to keep side and rear entrances as attractive as feasible. Because of the topography of the village, many side and rear entrances are quite visible from various angles.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village has much to be proud of. It also has potential to be a high scorer in the competition. You need a vision for the next five years, allied to an active community that will, with others, implement an agreed development plan. Good luck in your endeavours.