

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYHAHILL**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	19
Litter Control	40	25	23
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	21	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	185	176

Ballyhahill, County Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning the completed form with village map. It is good to witness Fas activity in the village and the building of stone walls is commendable. You do not say if you are working to an agreed 3-5 year plan. You need a vision of what the village might look like in five years time. This should include a phased working programme. The Fas scheme should be appropriately augmented by your own voluntary effort, so that you get maximum value from your efforts. The rural ethos of the village should be maintained and avoid unsuitable building materials in your development

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The stone wall development down to the attractive three arched bridge is now complete. However, you now need to follow this development with improved maintenance on the weed growth at the road down to the river. Also, some tree planting inside the stone wall would further enhance. You need to tone down the newness of the stone bridge. The old creamery is now a real eyesore and should be improved. Partial dereliction may be acceptable but the brick chimney stack should be retained as an important link with the past. Public buildings look well again this year and the school grounds are among the best presented in the region. The wall mural at Cronin's Pub is excellent. Many buildings in the village centre need improved presentation and you also have many derelict sites which are keeping your marks down in this section.

LANDSCAPING

The colour created by the residents of Meadowlea is very praiseworthy and should be extended to other areas of the village. In general, the village would benefit from more flower displays. With the extra development of stone walls you will need to balance this with more colour elsewhere. The display of window boxes on some premises gave a good bright effect to the village, but more permanent shrubs and perennial flowers would give better results. Those building new houses or restoring existing ones should be encouraged to finish well with appropriate landscaping. When planting keep to the deciduous type most suitable to rural areas. Ideally, you should avoid too much post and rail fencing, in preference to hedges and stone walls.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You need to make more of the White river and try and link it

with the village. You have made a good start with the stone wall. This area is ideal for wildlife and the evidence of Cormorants is very welcome as there are reports of nesting Cormorants in the castle at Askeaton. Place greater emphasis on wild flowers, especially on and near the river bridge.

LITTER CONTROL

Apart from some pockets of litter in evidence, the village was reasonably clean. In general, you do not have a problem in this area, unlike the larger centres.

TIDINESS

Your problems here relate to the many derelict and unoccupied spaces in and around the village centre. In particular some boundary walls need attention. There is a good deal of overgrowth on the Loghill approach. Try and spray the gutters in May for best effect. The inscription tablet on the bridge wall has been cleaned but the text is now illegible and should be painted.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

You have scored well in this section and there are many examples of very well presented gardens reflecting a caring attitude by the residents. As already mentioned Meadowlea is very bright.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surface, side and rear entrances are all important and are now forming part of the core adjudication format. Encourage traders in particular to keep their side and rear entrances comparable to the front facade of their premises.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballyhahill has retained its rural character and has much to offer. The village is attractively located in typical west Limerick countryside. You should make more of the White River and try to formulate a working plan that will show clearly how you can further improve. In particular bring the community with you in your endeavours and get as many people as possible involved in your activities. Good luck in your pursuits.