

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINALEE**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	27
The Built Environment	40	22	21
Landscaping	40	21	19
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	18	18
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	17
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	158	153

Ballinalee, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the application, comments and map. The plan, though short and to the point sets out a number of viable ideas. It is a busy village with quite an amount of traffic travelling through. It is wonderful to see that you are encouraging the involvement of children and the formation of a Foroige.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The buildings within the village are well presented though suffer from the plastic/ 70's type signage and facades in some cases. Gormans looked well, though there is quite an amount of clutter outside. It had some fine baskets and planters. The Church looks well though would benefit from some tree/shrub planting in the carpark. The community hall was freshly painted, however the school needs an uplift- perhaps some planting would help. The health centre was reasonable. Lakeland will require repainting before next year. The Credit Union was poorly presented and the community should have a plan to upgrade this if possible. The Stags Head should consider more traditional signage when it is replacing its signs. Both the Garda Station and the Church of Ireland looked well though the use of more native trees and shrubs should be considered rather than Cordylines. Both King and Rawles premises display some fine traditional signage – this is becoming rare and appropriate restoration must be considered when it is required. What has happened at the GAA Centre? Is their area being reseeded or is it all for parking? MacEoins Forge is being cared for and the judges had the opportunity to see inside. It is a wonderful piece of history that could be developed further. The area around makes a nice picnic/stop off for motorists and the forge itself would be of interest to visitors and local alike.

LANDSCAPING

Congratulations on the planting of so many trees, however these must be maintained and the areas around them kept free of weeds in order to encourage strong growth. The stone trough on the Aughnacliffe road has seen better days. More colour should be encouraged for houses and buildings though for that which exists, it is good to see some sense of co-ordination. Stonewalls should also be built in a way that encourage wallflowers (selective).

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river area is very pleasant and the picnic area beside it is very tranquil. You can see the contrast between the new

mosaic wall on the bridge and the older wall of character. Has an assessment of the types of habitat been carried out? This could be done in conjunction with the schoolchildren. The wooded area near the GAA Park could also be another suitable project area.

LITTER CONTROL

There was a scattering of litter on the day of adjudication. Proper litterbins are required in areas where people congregate. The existing plastic bins are not suitable. This should be priority for next year.

TIDINESS

Areas of litter, gravel and uncut grass detracted from the appearance of Ballinalee. Again a systematic approach to keeping the village will need to be adopted. Litter is undoubtedly due to passing traffic. Admittedly it is difficult to keep all grass cut short at this time of year due to great growth, however a regular routine of weekly cutting the margins would help.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There is a mixed presentation of houses on the main street – some needed repainting, though there are other, such as the cream house, which look very well. There are also some well-kept houses on the road to the GAA pitch. The new housing estate on/beside the Bullys acre looks well though the landscaping requires weeding.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Drumlish approach looks well with some nice tree planting. The Edgeworthstown approach is okay though needs further cutting back at the margins. Trees also require breathing space around their trunks. There is also a rusty pole in front of the name sign. The new signs in Irish/English are good and could be improved with the use of rambling roses over the back of the stone.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballinalee is village that is progressing well and could do well in the competition in future. Target such areas as litter, wildlife and approach roads to achieve greater marks next year. Well done on all the work carried out and good luck in 2000.