

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYMAHON**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	26
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	10
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	166	162

Ballymahon, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The town has a wonderful feature in the wide street and the mill. The mill development is welcome as long as they keep the features of the mill and do not impact too much on the local environment. Sewage treatment will also have to facilitate a large increase in people in this part of the town.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Buildings varied in their presentation. The Top service Station on the Edgeworthstown road has some nice planting. Ballymahon information Office and Tumbling Tots had some nice stone planters. The number of derelict buildings on the Edgeworthstown road has decreased – well done. The Midland Health centre requires the repainting of its walls. Work is presently being undertaken in the National school. The factory on the Athlone road and Autotote looked well. In Scoil Naisiunta Colmcille, the basketball board and the walls require attention though there is nice planting. The Sports Centre on the Gurteen road looks dilapidated. The planning permission for café and 1bed apartment at Ballybrannigan was noted. Hopefully, again this will be carried out sympathetically. Seek advice from those in the know about buildings of this era. The canoeing facility requires a litterbin, as there was a significant amount of litter in the area and no bin. The lotto sign should also be replaced or taken down, as it looks dilapidated. The Market House looks well - it is good to hear that refurbishment is imminent.

LANDSCAPING

Some premises sported fine baskets and included the River Inn, Kenny's lounge, the Market House and Cooneys. Anthony Barry's was well painted. Flowers are generally not encouraged around the base of trees as they draw moisture and nutrients from the soil competing with the trees. Incidental tub planting looks well. Some of the planting in Ballybrannigan is not in keeping with canal vegetation e.g. the use of Cordylines. Trees on the Lanesboro road will be nice as they mature, though the black concrete fence needs repairing. Seek advice from a wildlife officer as to the native species that should be encouraged.

Broken seating beside the Mill needs to be repaired. Landscaping in the secondary school is to be highly commended. The baskets and roses look magnificent.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is excellent that so many habitats have been identified around the town. Involving the school children as well will prove fruitful as they are involved in the study of nature in

school. The judges are sure that there are individuals in the community who have an interest in this area and will provide back-up advice and information. The information and boards along the proposed Millennium walk seem a good idea.

LITTER CONTROL

There are a number of litter bins in Ballymahon, however many of them were quite full. There was some litter on the Athlone approach road and at Durkans Takeaway. Litter on the main street was not too bad considering the recent festival. The judges have never seen so many litterbins in close proximity as in the secondary school – and no litter – well done.

TIDINESS

Uncollected grass creates an untidy appearance and on the Athlone road the abandoned cars and trucks are a dreadful eyesore. Is there anything that can be done about this?

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There is a small field/ area in front of the houses on the Athlone road and it is totally overgrown. The houses on the road to Ballymore are generally well presented though a number need their front walls and areas cleared and replanted. The litter mars St. Matthew's Park, however, there are no litter bins. The houses on the Lanesboro and Gurteen Roads are reasonable. The centre of the town looks fine with more traditional houses. Well done to all who have made an effort in their presentation.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Athlone approach is well cut back though, the directional signboard is grubby. The Mullingar approach was fine though a couple of pieces of litter, an abandoned roadwork's sign and a disused advertising sign need attention. The Edgeworthstown approach is good though there is also some litter here. The speed sign opposite the Church (30mph) needs replacing as does the Children crossing sign on the Lanesboro road and the directional sign on the Gurteen road. The road surface in St. Mathews will need to be addressed in due course.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The Millennium Walk is a good idea. Do keep sight of other aspects of the Tidy Towns too. Approach the County Council about directional and name signs. Initiate a hanging basket competition in co-ordinated colour sponsored by a business in the town. Seek to identify where further tree planting could take place in the Main Street and priority; establish a litter

campaign to eradicate litter. Good luck in your future work and the Millennium Walk.