

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINA-MAYO**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 25-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	24	18
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	13
Litter Control	40	17	17
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	15	14
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	17
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	178	157

Ballina, County Mayo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Your developmental plan / work programme taking you into the new millennium makes interesting reading. Well done in work accomplished to date, particularly to work carried out by the Tidy Towns Committee with the help of the UDC and others on Marion Crescent. It is good that you have links with a number of statutory bodies. Your liaison with the OPW regarding the site of the Dolmens and Portal Tomb together with other sites of archeological interest will hopefully bear fruit. These are an important part of your heritage and should rightly be celebrated. We look forward to visits to Belleek Woods in future years. Do keep us informed of your progress in this regard.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Some buildings beyond the railway station on the entrance to the town are in need of cleaning and / or repainting. The fencing of the 'Barrett's of Ballinagh Farm and Fuel Centre' could be planted with a climbing plant for both greater enclosure and for visual enhancement. Weed growth from the base of its walls should be removed. Both the 'Snooker Hall' and adjoining building and the 'Bike Shack' could also be improved. Other buildings in need of attention are 'Ballinagh Printing', 'Roches', the 'Community Centre', a 'Stitch in Time' and adjacent buildings. A number of new developments have occurred in recent times and these are enhancing the overall townscape significantly. The excellent architectural advisory service provided by the County Council is reflected in the presentation of many buildings.

LANDSCAPING

Tree planting around the town at a variety of locations together with shrub and flower beds have established themselves well and will continue to enhance the visual recreational amenity value of Ballinagh as they mature. Your choice of oak and ash trees is commendable. The development at Marion Terrace looks really beautiful. Well done!

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Do keep us informed of any progress or developments on your wildlife project on the Brosna river. The wildflower meadow is a good idea and must have taken a lot of work to prepare in clearing scrub and rubbish etc. Perhaps an inventory of local wildlife would be a suitable millennium project under this heading.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter black spots include the area of road on which the Ardnaree Tool Hire property is located which is a pity as there are some quite beautiful kerb stones along this road. Other weak spots were noted also. You will probably need to review your litter management strategies. You are referred to the new Tidy Towns Handbook. Well done on the new litter bins.

TIDINESS

The J. Diamond Ltd. Yards opposite the Community Centre are a problem under this heading, however the wire fencing could be planted, solid good quality timber gates provided and entrance walls to gates repainted. The overall appearance of the town was one of tidiness but a number of sites and derelict or vacant buildings are in need of attention. No doubt this is in hand with County Council and others concerned.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The soft to neutral colours of semi-detached residential properties marking the entrance from the Belmullet road are a pleasant visual experience, however a number of boundary walls could be improved in their presentation. No doubt the new residential development beside the 'Golf Club' will complement the existing stock of residential properties in the town in terms of both presentation of buildings and of green open space. Recently completed townhouses (near Eddies Londis Supermarket) look especially well. Well done on the maintenance of green areas together with new tree and shrub planting. Marion Crescent is a truly beautiful development as regards landscaping green area, stone wall construction and the small bridge. (For this to be considered for the landscaping award, you would have to incorporate the small stream into the overall presentation. During adjudication it was littered and weedy, the bed would have to be cleaned). Some newly constructed townhouses on the Quay along the Moy look well. Adjacent older houses need cleaning in respect of boundary walls and in some cases the buildings themselves (Bachelors Walk). Seating along here looks well also.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Foxford approach road and entrance to the town is visually pleasing in all respects. A minor exception is the wall which features the Ballinagh Showgrounds sign, this should be kept freshly whitewashed. The railway station looks well from the roadside. The Belmullet approach road and entrance is attractive also, however the curtilage area and roadside boundary of the Value Centre property could be upgraded, (the adjacent Brooke's property sets the standard in this respect). The roadside area to the Co-op Stores and the Livestock Mart and Property Sales are very well presented also in terms of surfacing and landscaping, however walls and

roadside buildings may need to be painted before too long. The Sligo approach road and entrance is presented to the same high standard as other roads. An old petrol pump near the Dunnes Stores junction could be removed altogether or masked or refurbished. Some of the older litter bins could do with having their tops realigned and the containers themselves cleaned. The post box across the road from the AIB might also be refurbished. A number of signs could be upgraded also.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballina is a pleasant combination of attractive buildings and streetscaped together with the wonderful natural amenity of the river Moy and many landscape amenity areas.