

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINROBE**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	--
The Built Environment	40	24	--
Landscaping	40	27	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	--
Litter Control	40	17	--
Tidiness	20	12	--
Residential Areas	30	13	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	--
General Impression	10	7	--
TOTAL MARK	300	161	--

Ballinrobe, County Mayo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballinrobe is welcome back to the Tidy Towns Competition. With the exception of the Claremorris road and entrance to the village, all approach roads and entrances are presented to a standard which creates a very favourable first impression of Ballinrobe. It is good to note the networks that have been established by the committee and that the committee are working with the local authority, the Lake District Enterprise Ltd., the local LEADER board and others. Your approach by dividing the town into eight strategic working units appears to be working, there has been a dramatic increase in marks allocated for this year which is the result of work completed over the last two years. It is good to note that LEADER have funded the landscaping of all approach roads. The Cornmarket area which is the social heart of the town will when redeveloped enhance the overall townscape of Ballinrobe significantly.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Ballinrobe has a fine stock of handsome single, two and three storey buildings, many of which have retained their traditional features and most of which are well painted. Art O'Neills pub is one such building and this is important as it terminates the vista when one is traveling along the main street. It is a pity about the Golden Fashions on Glebe street corner opposite Art O'Neills pub. Its presentation is very disappointing, particularly as it occupies such a major site in the town centre. The community school is excellent in its presentation. Other schools are well presented. The Garda station is nicely painted and the Fire station looks well also, as does the Health Centre. The use of colour on buildings in the town is very successful. Some buildings along Bridge street need to be cleaned up or painted. Try to ensure when derelict buildings are being refurbished / redeveloped that their traditional features are retained and that their use is compatible to other uses in their street.

LANDSCAPING

Tree planting along the Castlebar road is extensive, your choice of species being a native tree is good. You have a choice to feature seasonal displays of indigenous wildflowers in the grass margins or to keep the grass margins neatly trimmed. The former can be achieved by a careful mowing regime. The roadside edge of the grass margin needs to be straightened in places and some reseeding is necessary along some sections if you are going to feature a well maintained grass margin. The grass margin around the semi-mature trees after the nameplate at the Castlebar entrance is the standard which should be achieved for the grass margin on this approach. The same point regarding the presentation of

grass margins around newly planted trees on the Galway and Cong roads can be made. In addition some sections of grass margin on the Galway road need to be leveled and some on the Cong road seeded. Your landscaping programme should be extended to enhance the area around the Co-op Mart and adjacent Funfair site.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The small riverside development at the Station road is an attractive feature in this area. The Bowers River Walk is a valuable amenity feature. A little more attention could be paid to the presentation of seating, etc. Some information regarding the distance of the walk and attractive features such as wildlife might be provided in leaflet, brochure or other form.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is quite good throughout, however there was a light scattering of litter along the main street in the town centre. Are there regular clean ups? Are litter bins being emptied on a regular basis, are these enough bins, do you have a litter management strategy?

TIDINESS

The large rubble filled tract of land on the Castlebar road will, no doubt, be developed in the near future and so resolve the problem under this heading. Weed growth along the base of walls and along the kerb at the Co-op Mart and environs on the Claremorris road are a problem under this heading.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Landscape works for residential areas on Neale road, Kilmaine road and Claremorris and Creagh roads will enhance these areas as trees and shrubs mature. Residential properties and areas are very well presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The stone wall along the Castlebar road should be restored in places as necessary and its base kept free of weed growth and long grass as much as possible. The sign for the 'Robes Small Business Centre' should be refurbished. The old style phone box near Abbey Tyres is worth refurbishing and the seating at the sculpture amenity area here could be replaced with better quality seating. The overall standard of presentation of street furniture is good. The town centre looks well being free of wirescape.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There has been a substantial increase in marks since your last year of participation, this is a reflection of the number of projects that have been undertaken since then and your overall developmental approach, your links with the Lake District Enterprise are valuable and make a significant contribution to your overall developmental strategy. We look forward to observing your progress in the years to come, well done!