

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINTUBBER-MAYO**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	30	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	191	189

Ballintubber, County Mayo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballintubber is welcome to the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition. The map furnished with your application was of very limited use for adjudication purposes. In order to present your community as a single entity within the competition, clear and definite information regarding the limits and boundaries of your area accompanied with signs and / or nameplates and access points will have to be provided due to the dispersed nature of your community. Given that there are twenty seven miles of roads in the Ballintubber community, the challenge to the committee will be to present the community area as a single entity. This might be achieved in a number of ways, for example the uniform and consistent presentation of walls, grass verges, displays of wildflowers or landscaping techniques.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Buildings and walls at the Celtic Furrow could be cleaned and / or painted. However it is acknowledged that building work here is still in progress and that maybe this work is to be accomplished. Mary Morans Cottage is attractive. The school looks particularly well, although its boundary wall could be freshened. Some outbuildings beside the carpark at the Abbey could be repainted.

LANDSCAPING

No doubt the green area on the roadside to the Celtic Furrow will be landscaped soon. Grass verges along the main road need to be reseeded, particularly at the Castlebar end. The long grass around trees may detract somewhat from their growth. For flower displays and hanging baskets and other containers to be a visual success, they must be quite profuse and overflow their containers. Some of the hanging baskets and other containers around the area should not really have been displayed as their flowers were so sparse.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

If there is pedestrian access to the lakeshore, it should be clearly signposted. If not, then perhaps access could be developed. The walks to which you refer to in your application should be signposted also. Perhaps a single panel giving details of walks and other amenity features of Ballintubber together with the boundaries of the area could be provided at a central location, perhaps at Mary Moran's Cottage to facilitate visitors and strangers to the area.

LITTER CONTROL

There were no serious problems under this heading. It is good to note that the committee is working in conjunction with ECO regarding dumping, etc. Does your litter management strategy span throughout the year or is it confined to the summer months?

TIDINESS

The yards to a property near the junction on the Claremorris Road were quite untidy and outside of a boundary wall was in need of weeding. Your community awareness programme seems to be working well. Well done on the vigilance regarding grass cuttings.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most properties are presented to an excellent standard. One or two boundary walls near the Statoil garage need attention. The handsome house across from the cottage has some fine traditional features which should be retained upon refurbishment, if possible. The traffic island and adjacent corner at the road junction which features the old weighing machine could be presented to a higher standard. Residential properties near the Abbey look extremely well. It is good to note that each residential area of the community takes responsibility for all of the work in their own particular area.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The carpark opposite the Post Office needs to be resurfaced and weeded. Weed growth here gives it a rather untidy appearance. The carpark adjoining the pub/Post Office could be upgraded also and the old style telephone kiosk here refurbished. Many other spaces beside buildings could receive similar treatment. Stretches of stone wall should be highlighted more as a feature of the village. The road to the Abbey from the junction near Mary Moran's Cottage is in a poor state of repair although some works have been carried out here recently. The grass should be eliminated from the centre of the road leading to Castleburke.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It is difficult for a stranger to your village to perceive it as a single entry. Some thought might be given to overcoming this problem.