

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYCASTLE**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 28-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	24
The Built Environment	40	25	22
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	13
Litter Control	40	21	23
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	19
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	172	165

Ballycastle, County Mayo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballycastle is welcome to the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition. On approaching the town from the Belmullet road, the first glimpse of Ballycastle is the church which looks quite magnificent and gives an air of pleasant expectation on arrival. The gentle rise of the street which unfolds the buildings on either side of the road is a pleasant visual experience also. Thank you for your completed application, well done on achieving the co-operation of the community and statutory bodies. We wish you well with your plans. Congratulations on the acquisition of a Community Centre, this is a valuable asset which promotes community growth and development.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The wide street of the town affords a fine scenic view of the hill beyond and the gracious two storey buildings which line the street are presented to a good standard. The gentle rise of the street on approaching from the Belmullet road add interest to the townscape. The building against which the nameplate at the Belmullet end of the town is located should be kept freshly whitewashed as should some walls located on the main street at the top of the Rathlackan road. Some signage could be improved, for example the Moy Valley Tourist Information sign needs to be cleaned. The Foodstore sign could be replaced altogether and the elongated Restaurant sign might be removed or replaced with more appropriate signage together with the beer signs on the pub. The church and its grounds look well as does the adjacent building with the Celtic work around its doorframe, however the roadside boundary wall here needs to be cleaned or repainted or both. The Garda station looks well.

LANDSCAPING

Young trees are maturing well along the main street and on approach roads and will enhance the town significantly as they mature. The flower display opposite the residential properties at the top of the Rathlackan road look well. Do not be overly concerned with container flower displays as these are less important than permanent displays of seasonal shrubs and trees. Young trees in particular are a valuable asset to the town under this heading.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Ballycastle enjoys an excellent location for the study of wildlife. There are several suggestions on how this might be approached in the Tidy Towns Handbook. We look forward to receiving your wildlife plan as noted in your application when

this has been prepared.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is not good. This may have been due to a bag which had been overturned or emptied and its contents blown about the street. Some people were noted trying to rectify the situation. We note with interest the inclusion of secondary students on the LCBP studies in your litter control programme, well done. Do inform us of your other litter management strategies.

TIDINESS

When weeds have been sprayed, they should be removed as soon as possible as they look quite ugly when they become discoloured. The spring clean up of the beach, again involving students, together with local blackspots has paid dividends.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Some residential properties at the top of the Rathlackan road need to be cleaned or painted to their roadside façade. A number of road frontages to boundary walls of residential properties on both the Belmullet and the Ballina road should be either grassed with straightened roadside edges or resurfaced. The Holiday Home Villages look well and are presented to an excellent standard.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The new items of street furniture, particularly lampstandards and seating look especially well. Some items of street furniture such as petrol pumps need to be refurbished. Do try to keep the stone walls which line both sides of the road from the graveyard free of over long grass and highlight the wall as an attractive feature of the town, it should be refurbished as necessary. The water pump at the Garda station on the Crossmalina road should be cleared of surrounding long grass and featured. Roads and footpaths along the main street were beautifully surfaced.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballycastle is a beautiful village in an idyllic location beside sea, countryside lanes and hills. Its handsome two storey buildings lining its wide main street give it an ambience of elegance.