

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINODE**
County : **MONAGHAN**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	199	195

Ballinode, County Monaghan

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the completed questionnaire and accompanying map. This information was very helpful and your comments were taken into consideration by the adjudicator. As mentioned in last year's report all Tidy Towns Committees are now required to produce a plan which will guide their Tidy Towns activities. A clear and simple 3/5 year plan will suffice outlining achievable targets for your committee. This will give you a clear focus as to what is required to improve the rating of Ballinode in the competition. In formulating the plan you should seek the advice and guidance of your local authority and Regional Tourism Organisation.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Buildings in the village were in the main well presented. Deserving of special mention is the church with its attractive boundary stone wall and the eye catching thatched house nearby. The main street has improved in presentation and the many floral decorations add greatly to enhancing the overall presentation of this area. Whilst the Community Centre and Museum were reasonably presented - improvement is desirable - the boundary/open space to the side of the Community Centre was untidy looking. Kerry-Lee has a very prominent location in the village and the forecourt areas would look better if large flower tubs were in place - this would take away the bare look from the front area. A co-ordinated approach to the presentation of the main street might be considered in relation to colour schemes and traditional shopfronts. Buildings can be enlivened by the use of colour. The Built Environment (page 49) of the Tidy Towns Handbook will give you advice and guidance in this regard.

LANDSCAPING

The riverside park looked very well on adjudication day and the permanent planting here will be of great benefit in the future. As the major attraction in the village it is important that the grass is kept trim at all times. The river itself was clean and tidy as were the public toilets nearby. You should identify other opportunities for landscaping with particular emphasis on tree planting. Attractive hanging baskets and window boxes will also enhance the presentation of Ballinode.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You should identify wildlife habitats by way of a detailed

study. As you have a small committee it is suggested that you engage the support of the local school in carrying out such a study under the supervision of a local wildlife expert. Your survey will help to identify suitable sites but before any works begins seek advice from the relevant environmental organisations. The river area is an obvious place to start. Quiglough has also great potential in this regard, however, access appears to be a problem. As a Tidy Town Committee you have an important role to play in protecting and enhancing the wildlife features of Ballinode. The new all weather play court is a an excellent new facility and is presented well.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was very good on adjudication day, however, incidental litter in the areas of the public toilets was noted. You continue to perform well under this heading. Well done.

TIDINESS

Trimmed verges, tidy footpaths and well kept green areas promote a tidy environment for Ballinode. Improvements to footpaths, new kerbing and attractive wooden fencing in the area of the river all help in this regard. Unkempt boundary areas and open spaces can lose you marks under this heading as will derelict buildings. It is also important that street furniture looks well and is integrated tidily into the local environment.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential properties throughout the village are well cared for, with nicely presented gardens, sensible planting and well cared for boundary areas. It is important that the Tidy Towns Committee works closely with the householders, as in a small community, private houses and gardens play a leading role in the presentation of the village.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Roads in general were well presented with well cared for grass verges giving a welcoming and neat appearance on approaching the village. You obviously have a good working relationship with local authority and this should continue in order to influence further improvements under this heading.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The need for a 3/5 year work programme is now of priority in order to build on your success to-date. Do expand the membership of your committee as this will enable you to take on board additional tasks from your new 3/5 year work

programme. Ballinode has an idyllic setting and has progressed well in the competition without an overall action plan - things will get better if the recommendations in this and previous reports are acknowledged. Attention to detail will also make a difference. Good luck in the years ahead.