

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLYBOY**  
County : **OFFALY**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	26
The Built Environment	40	24	23
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	12	8
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>183</b>

## **Ballyboy, County Offaly**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the entry form, it is important to fill out all the sections as they highlight local issues and the three year work programme should be laid out to highlight works being carried out in each year so that adjudication can be related to the past year's work. There is a need to expand the scope of development plan as to why and how the programme is being carried out e.g. how is the floodlighting to the church going to be carried out and in what year and explain the type of effort and integration that your works are going to carry out in the next while. Given the size of the committee the village benefits very well from the effort put in and those involved should be congratulated.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The school has just been recently painted and has a very assertive colour scheme, Dan and Molly's pub is an excellent example of traditional thatch. The map provided highlights that there are very few houses in the village and that the built environment relies mostly on the connection of walls and these are of mixed construction standard. The coping of many stone walls should be examined from a long term point of view as the coping is often contrary to all traditional practices and the weather may break them down fairly quickly. It is important that such external details are consistent throughout the village so as to connect the spaces between the buildings and that the design and finish seeks a certain unity.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The tree in the centre of the village is a very important aspect to the whole of the main street and as with last year the presentation is simple and very effective. Of note is the graveyard which is tended to a very high standard. Current church ruins provide a very strong opportunity for a creative approach to the preservation and use of this structure.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

No specific plans were provided as to how wildlife and natural amenities are to be dealt with. The three year work programme provides direction in this area with the provision of picnic areas and making the river more accessible for visitors and one looks forward to the implementation of these goals.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

There are very few sources that can create litter problems in the village and as such this category is very well tended to.

## **TIDINESS**

There is a very high standard to tidiness and it is noted that some of the comments from last year's adjudication have been followed up on. Essentially tidiness provides for a unity throughout the whole village and makes one's visit very pleasant.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The maintenance of properties is to a high standard and obviously contributes to the overall setting of the village. There is very effective use of colour particularly with the roses. Perhaps more trees could be planted in some areas and if these were of indigenous variety they may also contribute to enhancing the natural amenities category for the village.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Weed control at all entry points is very thorough; of particular note are the new plantings at the Kinnitty junction opposite the church and graveyard which looked very well and the grass cut to a high standard.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The village is on the route of several walking trails for the region and as such is visited by both pedestrians and motorists. Given the scope of work outlined in the three year work programme, the village is providing more facilities for the pedestrian visitor and this will be a welcome benefit and encourage further use of these walking trails.