

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYCUMBER**
County : **OFFALY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	30
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	23	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	30	34
Tidiness	20	8	9
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	181	187

Ballycumber, County Offaly

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The entry form was very detailed and helpful; however, one of the demands in the competition is the development of a document highlighting a three to five year plan for how works are going to be carried out and aiding in the adjudication process. In addition, the presentation of maps is important to allow better understanding of the physical layout of the village; this must be done and accounts for the drop in marks in this years adjudication. However, this is only a short term drop; the adjudicators endorse the comments of the committee on the entry form about the scrap yards that surround the town and in many respects this really is a local authority issue. However, the development of a document that outlines a development approach for the village could assist in tackling this problem.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment is formed generally of small scale buildings which in general have a very high standard of presentation. The community must be complimented on the provision of the 1798 memorial. Car parking detracts from the setting of the village given that there is no definition to the edges of the roads; it automatically creates a problem with parking. Healy's Bar is in need of stronger integration to the surroundings, this is quite hard and has an excessive amount of tarmac surrounding it. The telephone kiosk is visually quite dominant and in some ways is quite badly sited as there is no place to stop for safe use of this facility.

LANDSCAPING

Flynn's corner is very well presented and the map is very informative, in some ways the location map is in an unsafe location with its proximity to the road and perhaps would be safer if it was located at the picnic area. The new tree guards look very well and are a good complement to the street scene as are the increased size and scale of the trees. The waterside park is very well maintained; your efforts in this area should be complimented as it is a very pleasant facility to have and allows access to a very fine natural feature.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The selection of plants for use in the town is mainly of non indigenous species and perhaps this should be reassessed so as to bring in more native plants which would allow greater integration with the surrounding rural countryside. This could be extended into the waterside park; it must be noted that the oil and residue spillage of oil from the scrap yards may

become future pollution sources.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is very strong and most areas are quite tidy; it must be noted that the posters that remain after the elections are still up.

TIDINESS

The scrapyard on the edge of the village is very visible and does contribute to a lack of tidiness; the wall at the entry road into the village is very poorly presented and does need proper finishing in addition to appropriate screening. There is greater need to define edges to roads as these are inclined to interfere with the presentation of a tidy environment

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Houses are well kept and all gardens are very full with lots of colour and many interesting planting patterns. The layout of the village is such that the presentation of these front gardens is very important to the overall character of the village and as such all residents must be complimented on the pleasant display of plants.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The town name at the entry by Twickenham House needs to be redone, but the entry area is very well maintained. Perhaps there are too many signs in this one location. Entry into the village beside Flynn's pub has a very informative map and the work carried out by FAS is of a very presentable standard. It must be noted that given the volume of traffic passing this location at this junction there would seem to be a demand for a railing if people are to use the area for a picnic facility. As mentioned in last year's adjudication some of the signs look grubby and need cleaning. Differentiation between road surfaces and pedestrian areas in front of houses is required to ensure that the roads are tidy, and that there is a safer environment for pedestrians.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This village has many interesting features that could readily be developed within the context of a three to five year plan and it is quite obvious that the efforts made by the residents in the village are providing a very definite character to the overall setting. Well done. It must be noted that the drop in marks for development approach and litter control will in general only be temporary but that they are responses to important issues that the competition must take into account.