

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINLOUGH**
County : **ROSCOMMON**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	16	16
The Built Environment	40	23	22
Landscaping	40	24	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	11
Litter Control	40	20	22
Tidiness	20	8	8
Residential Areas	30	13	13
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	15	15
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	135	135

Ballinlough, Co Roscommon

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome back to the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition. Since this adjudicator only received the front page of the entry form and no map it was difficult to assess your developmental approach. For next year you should try to prepare a 3/5 year plan and submit it with a completed entry form in time for the adjudication visit.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As stated in last year's report, Ballinlough is a potentially lovely village but it has no identification signs other than community alert signs. However, there seems to be a lot happening there and hopefully, in time to come, it will be easier for strangers to find. No progress has been made with regard to traffic calming. You might consider this and village signs for next year. The new pavements by The Lough and Donnellan's look good as do those by the Glynn monument, but there are still some plastic signs around and you should try to eliminate these. The derelict buildings are still a major problem but it was good to see so much building work going on. The petrol pumps and the derelict building E Daly & Sons is particularly unsightly. The trees in front are maturing nicely but the grass areas need cutting and weeding. The houses opposite are well maintained and the old cinema/dance hall is now painted but the door needs attention. Lakeview and the house next to it with cement blocks in the windows are also derelict and the adjacent grass grown site doesn't help. The Parochial Hall is now painted and hopefully the gate will also be attended to and the surrounds weeded. The Grotto area is well maintained but the case around the statue is worn.

LANDSCAPING

The verges were newly cut on the road from Castlebar but some litter was scattered there and the seat needs repainting. The shrub and tree planting opposite the Church is maturing but the base of the boundary walls and the base of most footpaths and flower containers need weeding. The area behind the Tap Pub was being weeded during visit and it was nice to see this. The Tap were preparing to put up their hanging baskets and they should be commended for their efforts in this regard. The Church of Ireland and the planted beds outside look very well. There seems to be an ongoing FAS scheme in the graveyard and hopefully some weeding will be done to the verges on the approach road and the tall grass at the rear of the graveyard will be cut.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It was good to see the new sign to Lake Flynn but having followed it, there didn't seem to be any easy access to the lake. The lake looked attractive and you should try and do a survey of the wildlife on it. Pity about the derelict railway buildings on this road. There is still some builder's rubble at the Community Centre but the stone wall approach, playing fields, car park and building look good.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter was scattered on the verges on a number of approach roads, on shrub beds and at the Glynn Monument. The litter boxes should be monitored regularly as some were full at the time of the visit.

TIDINESS

Builder's rubble near the new houses on the Castlebar Road should be removed and the boundary wall of one of these houses needs painting. The Rose Festival sign on this and other roads is ugly.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Quite a mix. Some business premises are trying such as The P.O., The Tap, Connolly's, Donnellan's and Murphy's Bar and many others, such as the Garda Barracks, could be a lot better. Work is ongoing on Campbell's Pub and hopefully when this is completed it will be a big improvement.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

So many derelict buildings and sites in and around the village need attention. You should try to concentrate on getting the owners to do something about tidying them up.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Some improvements and the new building work taking place should help but a lot still needs to be done. Good luck with the work - keep it up !