

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYFORAN**
County : **ROSCOMMON**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	25
The Built Environment	40	20	21
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	19	19
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	168	168

Ballyforan, Co Roscommon

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the 1999 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the completed entry form and sketch map. As recommended by last year's Adjudicator you should try to draw up a simple map of what you feel can be done in Ballyforan over the next three to five years and work on that. It was good to see that the village now has one identification sign by Ballyforan Bridge - try to have these provided for all entrances. The local Co Cl. should be able to assist in this regard. As previously mentioned, the lighting and telephone wires take from the pleasant aspect of the village and traffic calming would make a big difference.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There are very nice stone walls from the Mount Bellew Road to the village and there is evidence of some newly completed rebuilding there. No doubt, the resultant builders' rubble will be removed quickly. There is also some rubble at Pairc Naomh Aodain and the access road surface there is bad. The road surface throughout the village is poor, but hopefully the rubble is an indication that work on this is planned. The National School looks good but Pairc Naomh Aodain still needs re-painting. The plastic sign is still in evidence on Kenny's/Maureen's Foodstore, the Hook and Tackle is still being refurbished and the standing sign for Heather Hill is still in evidence. This is a pity as it is a very well maintained premises and the fixed signs are more appropriate. There is no improvement in the Garda Barracks or the Health Centre Building. The church still looked very well as did the P.O. and adjacent garden. As stated in last year's report, the village green could be a lovely feature but at present the grass needs cutting and there was a rusted barrel on it which should be removed.

LANDSCAPING

There are some nice trees on the Mount Bellew Road and the other trees throughout the village are maturing nicely. The village pump could be made more attractive by the addition of some flowers or shrubs. Some houses such as Heather Hill and the P.O. are making a big effort and there is a nice feature on the Athlone Road. The Esso Station and garden opposite look well and the grotto is a nice feature but the railings could be painted and some weeding done.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

As mentioned already the village green could be a great focal point for the village if it could be made into a park with a

central point such as a fountain, seating area and flower beds, with access to all. Do keep trying to get the owner involved. Ballyforan Bridge and the riverbank area could again be a nice feature if the river could be easily accessed and some picnic tables provided there. The view of the river is attractive but is somewhat spoiled by the ugly telephone wires at one side of the bridge.

LITTER CONTROL

Generally good but there was some litter scattered on the approach roads, by Connolly's and on the slip road by the Hook & Tackle. It is good that you have the school children involved in litter control and in time this will prove beneficial.

TIDINESS

Grass verges on most roads need cutting, the surrounds of buildings such as Pairc Naomh Aodain need weeding and all builders rubble should be removed. Where possible, derelict sites should be tackled.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There is a mix of houses in the village. Some are trying to improve and should be commended for doing so but there are a number of derelict sites which take from the overall aspect.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Those on the slip road by the side of Heather Hill Garden Centre and the church are good and well maintained.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballyforan is potentially a lovely village but you need to try and get the village green situation sorted out. Use it as the main focal point and plan improvements around this.