

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINACARROW**
County : **SLIGO**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	20
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	10
Litter Control	40	29	30
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	174	176

Ballinacarrow, County Sligo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

As stated last year, the format for adjudication has changed since you participated last, and a long-term work programme is now requested as part of the application and is a key element in the allocation marks under the heading Overall Development Approach. A concise 3/5 year plan outlining achievable targets for the committee, will help focus work in the future, and also allows the adjudicator to measure the Committee's progress. It is good to see greater community participation in the fund raising ventures, and that your involvement with local bodies continues.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church and grounds were very well presented, with some nice landscaping features, although the problem area in front of it detracts from the appearance of this part of the village. There is a derelict concrete site on the lower opposite side of the road which looks very unsightly. The gate at Durkin's was very effective in screening the back yard. The National School, its rear entrance and grounds were tidy. It is good to see the old school in use by the community, but this Community Centre, needs to tidy the area behind it. The new stone wall in front of it looks very well and makes an eye catching feature on this corner. The untidy derelict building on the Rathcarrow road is still particularly unsightly. Fallons Shop and Petrol Station looked well although there were some objects lying around the Car Park that should be removed. The old two storey shed in the centre of the village is in itself an unusual feature nowadays, but is part of our rural heritage. The committee have acknowledged this by highlighting it with an attractive landscape feature in front of it. The derelict building close to the Community Centre needs attention, similarly, a general tidy and a whitewash would dramatically improve its appearance.

LANDSCAPING

The stone wishing wells on the village approaches still remain unfinished, and they could be an attractive landscape feature, giving a nice first impression of the village. The flower beds in front of the school needed attention, it could be replanted with shrubs that require little attention, as it is equally as important to maintain your shrub beds after planting to sustain the effect. There was an attractive hedge opposite the Community Centre on the Rathcarrow road. An attractive stone wall was also in the process of being built at the river. This area has the potential to be both a wildlife and landscape feature with its attractive trees, but only after it has been tidied and finished. The Committee proposes to plant outside the

Community Centre and in other locations not stated, a map would be useful each year just to give the adjudicator an idea of the plans and proposals.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Committee has an important role to play in this important area of the competition. While acknowledging that the Village is on a main road, there are still opportunities for enhancing and conserving wildlife habitats and the environment within the village. Once again the river is the first and obvious choice. The area behind the school could sustain hedgerows, wildflower meadows, pond/water feature, nesting box sites all important areas in their own right that are worthy of consideration and preservation. Work in conjunction with the school, relevant local bodies, ENFO or a local wildlife expert to optimise what you have currently in your village.

LITTER CONTROL

There was some litter evident in the village on the day of adjudication. There was litter in the river on both sides of the road, and there was some plastic wrapping in the triangular area adjacent to the Church. A clean up day and a litter awareness project in the school might be something the committee could pursue, as it very important that both the Committee and the community remain ever vigilant in this important area.

TIDINESS

Whilst the committee say that tidiness " is not one of our major problems", there are a number of areas that need some attention in the village. The large pipe reel beside the derelict building close to the Community Centre needs to be removed, as does the rubble outside the derelict site on the Rathcarrow road. The Community Centre Car Park and the open area opposite it, boundary walls and open spaces, are all areas that need to be kept tidy and weed free. Beer Barrels, free standing signs, pallets etc., particularly around business premises should all be stored out of view. All grass verges/margins should be kept tidy, without compromising the flora and fauna.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The houses throughout the village were generally well maintained. Some attractive hedges, tubs, gardens and flowers features were noted, a credit to all concerned.

ROADS STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Footpaths and kerbs were generally well maintained. Road surfaces, and markings looked well, as did stone wall and

gate opposite the Church. Approach roads were being mown on the day, and looked well. Tidying the margins further out the approach roads would also enhance the approaches to the village. The lay-by area on the Sligo road detracted from the approaching view of the village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballinacarrow is a village with potential to exploit its location. There is still work to be done throughout the village and the committees enthusiasm and interest is the guide needed to achieve a better environment for the whole community and its visitors. Your location on the N17 with both facilities and stopping/parking space is surely an incentive to develop some attractive features that would make people stop and visit your village. The Committee should endeavour to get the whole community involved in drafting the 3/5-year plan for next year's entry. Publication of the development plan or presenting it in a accessible location, may be of interest to local people, who will appreciate the ideas and work the Committee are involved in.