

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINTOGHER**
County : **SLIGO**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-1999

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1999 | Mark Awarded 1998 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 33 | 30 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 25 | 25 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 26 | 25 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 16 | 12 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 31 | 30 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 13 | 13 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 18 | 18 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 24 | 24 |
| General Impression | 10 | 6 | 6 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 192 | 183 |

Ballintogher, Sligo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

As stated last year the development plans are well thought out considering social, economic and tourism issues, which will benefit both the community and attract visitors to the area. The Committees continued work with local bodies, has shown some benefits, (bar the damage to the grass verges) and they will all contribute towards achieving your development plans. Publication of your development plan or presenting it at an accessible location, may generate a new appreciation within the community, of the ideas and work your committee are involved with, and aid their realisation.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The main street gives an immediate impression of colour and well maintained buildings. Most of the houses and businesses were nicely painted and well kept. The additional features mentioned in the development plan will further enhance the village on completion. Once again, Mc Guinness's, Conboy's, Higgins and the Post Office looked very well. St. Therese's Church, the smaller church in the middle of the village, M. Lanes, Community Centre, School, and private homes in the village looked well on the day of adjudication. The Grotto in the village centre also looked well, it is very important to maintain sites like these particularly if they are floodlit and in a prominent visual location. The attractive houses on the corner behind the grotto also look very well as did the cleverly disguised old house next door to the Post Office. The work on this derelict house takes both time and money and demonstrates the commitment of the committee in tackling the problems of dereliction, and the results add to the overall presentation of the village. The football pitch also looked well.

LANDSCAPING

Once again the landscaping and floral features throughout the village remain a credit to the hard work and enthusiasm of the whole community. The trees in the playing field are maturing nicely. The green area on the Riverstown road looked neat considering the building work in progress in the area, and the new trees will enhance this area further. The pump on this road could be an attractive feature again if it could be repaired and have its paint work refreshed. The shrub beds in the school looked well, and the new bed between the church and school will look well when completed. The tubs and window boxes looked very attractive, adding a lovely splash of colour to the village. Well done to everyone concerned.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Tidy Towns Committee has a shared responsibility to promote and encourage developments in this important area of the competition. The new amenity area will provide additional opportunities for development under this heading including, trees, hedge rows, nesting box, water/pond features and wildflower meadows. Work with a local expert or the ENFO in relation to optimising this location. As stated last year plan and design your nature signs with care, ensuring that they do not detract from the environment that you are trying to preserve and enhance.

LITTER CONTROL

Once again your vigilance and hard work in litter control was evident on the day of adjudication, with very little litter in evidence in the village. Litter bins should be cleaned and maintained as these are also an element in this section of the competition. It is important that both the Committee and the whole community remain vigilant in this important area.

TIDINESS

The centre of the village has a very tidy appearance. The old building on the Riverstown Road beside the Playing Pitch, has become a more obvious eyesore since adjudication last year, and needs to be addressed as it is such an obvious feature on this approach road. Similarly there is a stone shed on the left side on this road close to the junction that needs structural and cosmetic attention. These stone sheds have some potential to be either disguised similar to the building beside the Post Office, or restored for some use. Ballintogher old school also needs to tidy its overall appearance. The old sheds and farm buildings that are obvious on the Sligo approach also need attention, as they detract from the both the first and overall impression of the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many of the houses in and on the approaches to the village were generally well presented and maintained. Some tidy hedges and boundary walls, flowers, tubs and hanging baskets were noted. Due consideration must always be given to repairing and maintaining boundary walls, forecourts fences, and gates, and that any untidy side or back yards must be adequately screened with a gate or fence. There is an old cottage on the left as you leave on the Dromahair road that needs some attention.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Despite the setbacks outlined in your progress report, the hedges were nicely layed, and the grass verges were relatively tidy on the approach roads close to the village.

The upgrading of stone walls continues on the approach roads and the work to date looks very well, but they highlight the remaining walls that doubtless the Committee has targeted for repair or replacement. The bi-lingual Failte signs look very well, but do consider giving the sign surface an occasional clean. There is a varied standard of road surface in and around the village, and some footpaths still need attention. Work continues on the Car Park / Amenity Area and this will enhance the village further.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Your proposals for the future continue to demonstrate the committed enthusiasm of the Committee and the community for Ballintogher. Despite setbacks and the slow pace of some organisations, the committee must persevere with your plans as they will both enhance and enrich the village and the community. Good luck with the planning and every success in your future developments.