

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINA-TIPPERARY NTH**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	--
The Built Environment	40	27	--
Landscaping	40	27	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	--
Litter Control	40	25	--
Tidiness	20	12	--
Residential Areas	30	21	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	188	--

Ballina, Tipperary North

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed questionnaire; unfortunately there was no sketch map with the application and this made it difficult for the adjudicator to identify areas within the town and surrounds. Ballina is a town that has expanded dramatically over the last number of years; the amount of new developments is staggering. At this juncture it is important that the committee interact with the Local Authority to put together a plan for the town and its environs. It is crucial that the new developments taking place are in keeping with the established architecture of Ballina. This adjudicator visited Ballina on a day when there was a large volume of visitors; this coupled with the flurry of ongoing building work seemed to tax the existing infrastructure to the limit.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The standard in this category was quite good with most buildings presented to a high standard. Unfortunately there seemed to be a predisposition to plastic signs which ruin the overall character of the town. It would be unfair to single out any particular business premises but this issue should be addressed as soon as possible. Ballina G.A.A. Club was in good condition, the surrounding embankment needs to be trimmed. The new "Mace Shop", "Brooke Lodge" B&B "Gallopog Hogans" ,"McKeoghs" and the Lakeside Hotel all deserve mention for the standard of presentation. The Church, even though the railings need painting, and the School were in good condition. A number of premises were a little derelict, the committee should try to encourage landlords to do up these as part of the spirit of Tidy Towns.

LANDSCAPING

The standard in this category was quite good, even though some of the planting schemes were a little weedy especially at the junction of the Killaloe Bridge and Nenagh Roads. The riverside park and pool area was in good condition, nicely trimmed with a mix of trees and shrubs. It would be worthwhile to devise a landscaping plan as part of an overall 3-year work plan.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is important to foster steps to encourage wildlife by first of all involving children from local schools. This could be done by means of a special competition for the best wildlife plan for the immediate area. Advice should be sought from a local wildlife enthusiast for such an undertaking. Ballina/Killaloe has many natural habitats for various forms of wildlife, so it would be a

pity if these were not exploited to the full. Co-operation between both towns is needed on this one, put aside the hurling rivalries!

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was quite good on adjudication day. The town, which has got very busy over the last few years, needs additional bins placed at areas where most of the people congregate i.e. Take Aways, and Pubs. It was noted that a few litter bins were overflowing, possibly as a result of a heavy volume of visitors through the village

TIDINESS

The town was reasonably tidy when visited by the adjudicator. The condition of footpaths in the centre was poor in direct contrast to newly constructed footpaths on the Nenagh Road. Beware of weed growth at this time of year as it can become a nuisance; the parking area at the riverside park/pool area was a little overgrown.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are so many new developments taking place in Ballina that it is hard to keep track. The fact that I did not have a sketch map made it that bit difficult to identify by name some residential areas. Radharc na Sionna and Shoreside, both of which are new developments and at various stages of completion, were very well presented. Ashgrove Meadows also deserve mention as does the new scheme up at the back of the Church and Graveyard. Some of the houses and green areas on the Lough Derg View Road need a little revitalizing. There are a few messy back areas that need attending to, the committee should encourage all residents to keep back areas tidy.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Nenagh approach was very impressive with verges and hedgerows cut back appropriately. The new developments on this road have been complemented by new footpaths and excellent stonewalls. The Limerick and Boher Roads were also very well presented with good signposting to be seen. The bridge linking Ballina and Killaloe, whilst extremely narrow and busy, is kept in good condition, maybe some additional floral features would enhance it even more.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town is a good example of a traditional small Irish town. It is important that both the planners and developers bear this in mind when planning any future developments as I am led to

believe that a number of big ones are about to commence quite soon. Keep up the effort and strive to make further progress next year.