

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINGARRY-TIPPERARY NORTH**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-1999

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 1999 | Mark Awarded 1998 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 33 | 32 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 27 | 26 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 31 | 30 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 17 | 17 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 28 | 27 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 14 | 14 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 19 | 19 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 26 | 26 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 202 | 198 |

Ballingarry, Tipperary N.R.

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for completed application form, map and three year work programme for 1997-1999. Many of the items on this have been actioned and were noted on the day of adjudication. In an overall developmental context Ballingarry should now refer to the excellent Tidy Towns Handbook produced by the Department of the Environment and Local Government with a view to surveying the area, identifying the remaining problems and endeavouring to obtaining a solution to same in association with the local community, the local authorities and other agencies as identified in the Handbook. It was noted on the day of adjudication that your very successful fund raising event, the Barn Dance was imminent. This is a novel way of raising much needed finance and obviously involves the whole community which is also beneficial - well done.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The stone walls, incorporating seating, and entrance arches at the picnic area, mentioned elsewhere, are attractive. We note that the aspiration to build toilet facilities in this area is still included in your 1999 work plan. These would provide a valuable service to motorists but should not be built unless you have worked out how the facilities would be maintained and kept spotlessly clean on a regular basis. In regard to other buildings, the Garda Barracks and TOP filling station/ shop are nicely maintained as is Noonans pub. Here we would suggest that the plastic sign "Bar & Lounge Entrance" is superfluous and could be removed as there are also a number of drink company signs on the premises. The Community Hall is well maintained but still with a very stark appearance which some planting or tubs could alleviate. Unfortunately, O'Meara's shop has not done anything regarding replacing the plastic sign on their premises nor has O' Donoghue's Pub refurbished their signage. As the village looks better and better these items are more obtrusive as indeed is your major blackspot of the large derelict building in the centre of the village, which is looking more dilapidated than when this adjudicator saw it last. We note that you are endeavouring to obtain action on this.

LANDSCAPING

Particular mention must be given to the picnic area which now has stone entrance archways and the stone wall with indented seating. This area is very well maintained and on a busy road must be of great benefit to travellers. Other very attractive landscaping areas noted were opposite the picnic area, flower bed at the Garda Barracks, large flower bed in front of derelict building, covering creepers at

O'Donoghue's Pub and very attractive planting on the Nenagh entrance. Your on going tree planting is an investment in the future and some of these are now maturing nicely. Grassed areas are maintained to an exceptional level. The paved area near Cavanaghs with flowering tubs was noted.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The maintenance of your green areas, tree planting schemes and sowing of native hedging and wild flowers is to be commended.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little evidence of litter to be seen on the day of adjudication - your ongoing commitment to litter control as outlined in your plan is obviously working.

TIDINESS

In general the village reflects the obvious commitment to the Tidy Towns effort by most of the community and there was no evidence of roadside weeds to be seen. Cavanaghs yard is kept very tidy as is the petrol pump forecourt. Fly posting on the approach roads should be discouraged.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

These also reflect the community spirit evident in Ballingarry and with a couple of exceptions looked very well.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Directional signage in the middle of the village needed cleaning and a sign for Birr situated in a flower bed on the Nenagh approach road needs to be replaced. The "welcome" and "slan" signs in English and Irish are looking well and are to be commended.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A village where 90% of the community are obviously extremely proud of the place where they live and are willing to work towards maintaining and improving their village on a continuous basis. Your task is now to bring the other 10% along with you in your endeavours.