

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINGARRY-TIPPERARY SOUTH**
County : **TIPPERARY SOUTH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	--
The Built Environment	40	24	--
Landscaping	40	24	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	--
Litter Control	40	24	--
Tidiness	20	13	--
Residential Areas	30	19	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	171	--

Ballingarry, County Tipperary South

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

We welcome Ballingarry to the Tidy Towns Competition and wish them every success in it. Thank you indeed for all the information supplied and the most useful map which was of tremendous help on adjudication day. Your comments regarding your 3 to 5 year plan were noted. This can be a very simple plan, possibly drawn up in conjunction with your Local Authority and FAS. In it you should try to identify what can be realistically achieved over a 5 year period within your physical and financial resources. In this respect it is gratifying to read that you have the support of Tipperary SR County Council, BNS LEADER Company, FAS, local schools, Foroige and residents groups augmented by the Students Summer Job Scheme. You are very fortunate to have so many interested in what you are trying to achieve.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Your comments under this heading were noted and observed. Your very fine Church and its surroundings, the School and the Community Hall were very well presented on adjudication day as was the 1848 plaque and its floral surround which also looked extremely attractive. Undoubtedly one of the major features of the village is your lovely stone walls which are most impressive. Commercial premises also looked well including Meaghers Lounge, the Post Office, Ambys' Bar, Casey's and Centra. The whole village was extremely colourful which is a result of your painting programme. Congratulations to all concerned.

LANDSCAPING

Thank you for your excellent report. What has been achieved to-date was seen on adjudication day. Some hanging baskets were also in evidence - perhaps there were more to come. What were there were excellent and created a nice atmosphere. In terms of further landscaping a suggestion would be that you consider the area opposite the garage on the Kilkenny road which might help to soften the whole appearance of that approach. In doing so do consider trees and shrubs of a flowering nature which will give some colour on an all year-round basis. Beds of flowers are fine but they do have a short life and require constant maintenance. The small open space in front of the "Cashel" sign on the Kilkenny approach looked unsightly and with little effort could be turned into a small flower bed which perhaps local residents might tend.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your proposed site was noted. The thinking at the moment is that, as in the case of your Committee, the location should be identified which would be preserved and developed for the attraction of wildlife. In this connection the Tidy Towns Handbook may be of some help. Also do consult with the Irish Wildlife Conservancy. In the event of this project coming to pass please do mention it on next year's adjudication form showing the location so that the adjudicator can have sight of it. In the meantime you will receive a nominal mark under this heading.

LITTER CONTROL

Ballingarry was practically litter-free on adjudication day. Congratulations to all concerned. However this is an aspect of the Competition which needs constant monitoring and, in this respect, perhaps a few more litter bins would help. It was very gratifying to see, on adjudication day, in the housing estate on the Commons road, a young boy sweeping up the litter in a situation where a bin had overflowed. Well done to him and the local residents.

TIDINESS

Ballingarry was presented in a very neat and tidy manner on adjudication day. This reflects the pride of the local population in their environment which is to be highly commended.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

All housing estates, some newer than others were very well presented and their open spaces looked well. Individual houses also looked excellent. Many had wonderful gardens which were a delight to see. This is a very important part of the Competition. In a small area the full support of private residents is absolutely essential if success is to be gained. Congratulations to all concerned on a great effort.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Bearing in mind that an adjudication takes place from the village nameplate inward, approach roads were generally well presented. However this too is an important part of the Competition as approach roads tend to set the tone of the rest of the village. Therefore they need constant monitoring. Streets in the village have good surfaces and pathways appear to be well maintained.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Overall Ballingarry is a delightful village in a lovely rural setting and undoubtedly, in the years to come, will do well in

the Competition. However a 3 to 5 year plan is necessary and, as mentioned already, when preparing this please get the best advice you can. Consult with your Regional Tourism Authority [based in Waterford City] who can also help. The Authority run a Tidy Towns Seminar each year with many specialist guest speakers. This is well worth attending. You might visit other centres like Emly and Kilsheelan and see what they have achieved from small beginning. You are doing excellent work and the adjudicator looks forward to visiting Ballingarry again next year to see further improvements.