

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYMACARBRY**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	24
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	30	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	26	27
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	212	204

Ballymacarbry, County Waterford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your entry form and map, which was most useful on the day of adjudication. Your Committee is small, but you get through a lot of work. I would suggest that you contact all the sporting, cultural clubs and associations in your Parish and ask them to lend you a hand with the work of your Committee. As pointed out last year, Tidy Towns Committees are now required to prepare a plan which will guide their activities over a period of 3 to 5 years. It should be a simple 3 to 5 page document, and set out clearly your objectives for each year covered. The expertise needed with this plan will be found in your own community. It is good to see that you have a good relationship with the Local Authority and that you get wonderful assistance from them. Perhaps you might also talk to FAS, the Regional Tourism Authority, ESB, Telecom Eireann and the National Rehabilitation Board, who will all have valuable advice to give you. I would also suggest that you involve the young people in Tidy Towns. Their energy and interest can help in many ways. Seek involvement from youth organisations such as Foroige, Macra, Scouts and Youth Clubs, etc. It is good to see that the local industry - Pinewood Laboratories - is supportive of your activities.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Again this year almost all the buildings in Ballymacarbry were well maintained. Both the pubs are extremely well maintained and well done to the proprietor of the Oriel Bar for removing the plastic signage and replacing it with a lovely wooden sign. Well done! The Post Office and the Garda Station again continue to be well maintained. The Grotto looked very well and the lamps have been repaired and painted since last year. St Patrick's Hall does need attention, in particular the windows. The Waterford Foods buildings, as mentioned in last year's report, do need attention and that includes the walls, doors, and windows of the old building. Perhaps at the area where the fertiliser is stacked and stored, some type of screening could be used. The old mill which appears to be part of the Pinewood Laboratories buildings has received very nice treatment and does look extremely well. The vegetation surrounding this industry and the screening of the industrial building there is to be commended.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping of the walls in the car park was delightful - there was a wonderful display of shrubs, trees and bedding

plants. In each corner the stone beds contained a tree in each one, and also some lovely plants in wonderful colours. Again the area of the car park near the river and around the picnic tables is well maintained and presented. The Grotto continues to be well maintained with the more recent planting blending in with the natural vegetation surrounding and the grounds. This is an area which needs regular cutting and maintenance. At the picnic areas there is some lovely planting done on top of the walls and that area had some lovely shrubs and plants. Overall, you have achieved a good variety and also a year-round effect with the shrubs and trees planted. A lot of work has been done this year in the planting of trees, shrubs and bedding plants. So, well done to all concerned.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have a lot of scope to develop and enhance the wildlife aspect of Ballymacarbry. The river at the car park and picnic areas is an ideal place to start with. I would suggest that you look at the Tidy Towns Handbook which was sent out to you recently and which has some very useful information in it on wildlife and natural amenities (page 65). Also, as pointed out last year you may have somebody locally who has an expertise in this area and who would possibly love to get involved and provide you with the advice you need. You have an important role to play in the enhancing, protecting and increasing the wildlife value of your community. The Grotto area presents another opportunity for enhancing and creating a nature area both for wildlife and plant life. One does look forward to see you make progress in this area in the coming years.

LITTER CONTROL

This separate section relating to litter control carrying with it 40 marks reflects the importance of having and maintaining a clean outdoor environment. Control of litter overall in the village is very good. However, there is still litter in the area across from St Patrick's Hall, at the entrance on the steps and also down at the river. Also, the bin at the entrance of Pinewood Laboratories was overflowing and had some litter on the ground. This is something which needs monitoring and a plan should be put in place to ensure the bins are emptied on a regular basis. There were some small pieces of litter around the Grotto area. Perhaps you may need some more litter bins, in the right place, particularly down at the river area. The frequency of emptying bins must be tackled.

TIDINESS

Ballymacarbry was presented in a neat and tidy manner on adjudication day. The control of weeds at the kerbs and at the base of buildings is very well managed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The residential areas are maintained very well throughout the village and in particular the residents of St Martin's Place. Boundary walls were well cared for and there were some stunning displays of flowers and shrubs in the gardens. Individual houses throughout the village again are well maintained, as are the terrace of houses down from the Post Office. The seating throughout the village was maintained in good condition. An odd boundary wall may need attention but overall they were extremely good.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The resurfacing of the entire village roadways and the new footpath gives the village a very smart appearance. Also the surfacing of the car park at Melody's and the general upgrading of this area is most welcome. This is a very important element in the overall presentation of your village. Well done to all concerned and to the Local Authority for their work in this area. The signage throughout continues to be maintained in very good condition but an odd sign does need replacing. Seats and the picnic tables again were very well maintained throughout.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballymacarbry as was mentioned last year is a delightful village, peaceful and pleasant. The work undertaken this year has enhanced the whole village and in particular the resurfacing of the road through the village and the car park. The inhabitants do take great pride in their environment and the efforts that your Committee are putting in is being reflected in the progress being made. Do endeavour to do a very simple plan for the next 3 to 5 years and also work on the wildlife aspect of the Competition. Encourage more people to join with you in the very worthy work you are doing for the community.