

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYMAKEERA-BALLYVOURNEY**
County : **CORK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 27-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	24	23
Tidiness	20	10	9
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	187	183

Ballymakeera-Ballyvourney, County Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The material submitted with the application form was helpful showing the various work and objectives to which the tidy towns have committed themselves. It may be useful to separate out the items and to place a time scale of years on them thereby forming a timetable of work for the coming years.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Because of the linking of the two villages there is a considerable amount of buildings to consider. There is generally a good standard of buildings between the two village and a high degree of maintenance. The colourfully painted church stands out clearly with its surrounding carpark. The Udaras Na Gaeltachta building is also impressive in the town. The many business premises show a good standard of care and attention. Both O' Tuama's and O' Scanall's are noteworthy. The Thatched cottage and An Muileaan – The Mills Inn and stone fronted house opposite are attractive with beautiful grounds taking in the attractive ruins as a feature within the grounds. The Abbey Hotel is also attractive.

LANDSCAPING

The predominating large trees of the two villages show how important these are in adding character to the villages. The link between the two villages consists of the beautiful tree lined section of road. Any opportunity to plant new trees should be taken. Choose some of the large tree types where space permits so that a continuity can be developed with the large lime trees which were planted by previous generations. Every garden that is well cared for throughout the town and surrounds contributes greatly to the overall landscape – this is important and great credit is due to people who silently go about maintaining their gardens. The areas of the grotto with water feature and planting, cemetery, well, and statue are attractively landscaped and make an interesting walk. Stone walls are a strong feature of the villages.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There are ample opportunities for rambling among the wooded areas and riversides. In order to gain most from these areas it would be wise to help with information about the wildlife and what could be expected to be seen on a walk. Local knowledge and school projects would be helpful in this regard. Often local people with great interests in wildlife may take this knowledge for granted yet their contributions can be so important.

LITTER CONTROL

There is a good level of litter control in both villages. Because of the vast traffic passing and the total length of the two villages side by side constant vigilance is needed in regard to keeping the villages litter free. This places an extra burden which seems to be coped with well..

TIDINESS

The tidiness of both villages is good. The areas up by the well and cemetery are well laid out with carparking and this helps tidiness. A detailed look - premises by premises through the villages is a useful exercise for the committee to form an inventory of areas needing attention of one kind or another. This may show possibilities for tidiness improvement.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A good deal of residential housing is located actually on the main road frontage . Here there is a good standard and this contributes well to the appearance of the villages. St. Gobnait's Terrace was well cared for and there are nice new houses opposite the church.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The blue signs are very attractive and form a distinctive symbol to follow when looking at the surrounding amenities of the villages. The vast length of road throughout the two villages provides a range of situations from the tree lined linkage between the villages to the hotel, business and school and church situations – all having to be accommodated in the one stretch of road places some strains. The natural vegetation on the roadsides especially just outside the villages gives a welcome variation.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The twin village approach is unusual and adds character to the villages. The wealth of surrounding wooded areas and the local St. Gobnait features add greatly to the interest in the villages.