

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINAMORE**
County : **LEITRIM**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	29	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	11	12
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	206	202

Ballinamore, County Leitrim

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballinamore was looking extremely well on adjudication day. A big effort has been made by all the residents of the town in painting their houses and business premises. Main Street in particular had a bright and cheerful appearance and is a credit to all concerned. The Canal basin is a great asset to the town in terms of landscaping, buildings and presentation. There is obviously a great community spirit in Ballinamore and if this keeps up your ranking in the Tidy Towns Competition should enable Ballinamore to fulfil its potential and compete for one of the major prizes in the near future. However, there are still some problem areas which need attention and these will have to be attended to first. Thanks for returning the completed questionnaire and the map which was most helpful.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Many of the public buildings were extremely well presented. The R.C. Church was splendid with its magnificent floral display. The Genealogy Centre looked well as did the Church of Ireland with its stone wall and well presented grounds and graveyard. The VEC and the school in the vicinity are well maintained and the marina looked lovely. St Felim's College is complemented by the fountain with its paving, treeplanting and seating. The Lilly Industries factory has a well maintained façade although there is some dereliction in this area. SuperValu store looks well and the new stone building behind it is excellent. Work is still ongoing here and we look forward to its completion. The McGirl Memorial was most impressive with its floral display. Ballinamore Textiles is well presented as is the Fire Station - nice stone walls. There is, however, a most untidy yard and an unkempt green area in the vicinity. The Community Centre is well maintained, as is the garage opposite. There is a most untidy area to the left of the Community Hall. Many of the shops and business premises are nicely presented. The waterway - nice hanging baskets, coach and horses catch the eye. Others worthy of comment are The Slieve an Iarainn Hotel, Commercial Hotel, Murphy's, Prior's, Scorpio Boutique, Smith's, MacFeragail's and the extremely well presented Budgetary Building on the Swanlinbar approach. The new building at the Marina is also worthy of mention.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping in Ballinamore was eye-catching. Tree planting was really effective, particularly on the Main Street. We look forward to the maturing of the trees here. The display of flower beds and shrubbery beds on the

approaches and throughout the town is outstanding. As already mentioned the display of flower boxes, hanging baskets and flower tubs throughout the town is super. The little cottage in the vicinity of the fountain is a credit to their owners with colourful and effective window boxes. Shrubbery beds at the marina are excellent. Well done everyone.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The marina basin is an ideal area for a wild life habitat. It is bad news about the fox, however you will be pleased to hear that this adjudicator counted 12 mallard ducks and ducklings at the marina on adjudication day. Keep an eye on them as they are most important.

LITTER CONTROL

The town was virtually free of litter on adjudication day. Some residual litter was visible on the approaches – two *full* litter bins were noted on the left of the Drumshanbo approach.

TIDINESS

Ballinamore has a bright, cheerful and tidy appearance and the efforts of the Tidy Towns Committee and the residents are beginning to pay off. There are some areas which need attention. The entrances to the car park on the right as you enter the town from Killeshandra are very unsightly. As already mentioned the road past the Lilly Industries factory as you enter the town has some eyesores. Screening has been attempted here, but it is not good enough as unkempt fields, rusty oil tanks and cars are still visible. Similarly as you turn left there is a derelict house for sale with two abandoned cars in the front garden. The water pump here with its floral display needs painting. Better screening is also required on the Aughnasheelin Road.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Many of the private houses on the approach roads are extremely well presented. Nice boundary walls, mature lawns, treeplanting and lovely floral displays are the order of the day. Well done! Many of the housing estates are well presented. However, worthy of special mention are the residents of Lahard Estate. The open green spaces are well maintained and cared for. Most of the houses are brightly painted and a wonderful display of flower tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes catch the eye throughout the estate. An excellent shrubbery bed has also been developed at the entrance to the estate. (Well done Lahard) Tully Heights is also well presented. Many of the houses in town are presented to an extremely high standard. Church Street has a most attractive appearance.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All of the approach roads were neatly maintained, however, some residual litter was noticeable. Pavements are well maintained and road surfaces were good. The small river which runs through the town looked very nice. No litter and well presented on the Main Street.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballinamore is a charming riverside town with great community spirit. Still some work to be done, however, success cannot be too far away.