

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINGARRY VILLAGE**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	29	27
Landscaping	40	31	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	200	193

Ballingarry, County Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the completed entry form and copy of Ballingarry 2000 plan commissioned by West Limerick Resource.

The plan document was very informative but a little unwieldy to access when engaged in adjudication duties.

It is good to see that there is ongoing co-operation between the Committee, Limerick County Council and agencies such as West Limerick resources. The village can only benefit in future years ahead.

As it is there have been many worthwhile developments since this adjudicator last visited the village. Most notable was the completion of the excellent village park as a community amenity.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Last years report indicated that the village could benefit from a painting blitz and that has certainly been acted upon, as there was evidence of both painting and ongoing improvements.

There are still some derelict buildings dotted around the village although it was noted that one in particular is earmarked for refurbishment.

The RC Church was very impressive with the adjoining grounds in splendid condition.

The school was well presented and improvements seem to have been made to the façade over the last few years.

There are a number of old shop frontages Lynchs and Quaid's that could be accentuated a little more as there are very few of their kind to be seen in the country at present.

The Mustard Seed premises and grounds create a very imposing presence at the junction on Newcastlewest Road.

The new sheltered housing development and indeed the new Garda Station are welcome additions to the village.

The village plan should highlight important changes that need to occur in the future without impinging on the traditional features that belong to Ballingarry.

LANDSCAPING

The addition of the new village park has added to the overall landscaping profile. The mix of trees, shrubs and some perennials is excellent and complement the other park features.

Little pathways were in the process of being constructed on adjudication day.

There was also an excellent landscaping and floral display at the National School and no doubt pupils have been encouraged to ensure that it is maintained properly.

As stated previously, The Mustard Seed grounds had some

impressive landscaping features and one should not forget the contribution of many householders who had lovely gardens.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The suggestion in last years report that the school should be approached to become involved in a wildlife project should be acted upon for next year's competition.

The Village and surrounds have many natural wildlife habitats to work on.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard in this category was quite good but there was some litter evident near the Community Hall and GAA Grounds Complex.

I feel that the village could do with some additional bins.

TIDINESS

There has been some positive moves made on the issue of dereliction and this is welcome.

The village, which has some very attractive features, will suffer in this category if the dereliction problem is not solved and I am indeed aware that this is a very sensitive issue that may be outside the control of the Tidy Towns Committee.

Keep encouraging local owners of such buildings, be they in situ or absent, to try and make positive contributions by at least camouflaging derelict premises.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There has been an improvement in this category as most houses were painted or in the process of same.

The older Terrace of houses as one enters from Rathkeale was in very good condition with some nice gardens and boundary walls painted.

The newer scheme of houses near the GAA Grounds were in relatively good condition although the road surface was poor and an area nearby, which would be an ideal green space,very overgrown.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

I would concur with last year's adjudicator who stressed the importance of encouraging residents to keep their side and rear entrances in a presentable manner.

The condition of entrance roads was very good in particular the Rathkeale and Croom Roads.

The Rathkeale entrance has its green verges well trimmed and new saplings maturing and well maintained.

The Croom Road has been enhanced by the excellent

village park, which will mature as the years progress.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Balingarry is a good example of a rural village in the Golden Vale with an attractive streetscape.

There are big plans ahead for the village and I sincerely hope that most come to fruition ,with the level of co-operation that exists at present that's very possible.