

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYLANDERS**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	--
The Built Environment	40	26	--
Landscaping	40	26	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	--
Litter Control	40	23	--
Tidiness	20	12	--
Residential Areas	30	24	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	180	--

Ballylanders, County Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thanks you for the completed questionnaire and sketch map of the village.

Indeed it is good to see Ballylanders re entering the competition after a lapse of eight years, which is far too long.

I would suggest that the Committee should seriously consider putting together a 3-year work plan prior to next year's competition.

The Village has immense potential but a lot needs to be done to address basic issues of tidiness and litter control and a work plan that will encourage locals to get involved is the way forward.

I am aware that a number of additional employment initiatives are being considered for the village, in light of this I feel the time is opportune to approach Limerick County Council and agencies such as Ballyhoura Failte to have the village considered for the Village Renewal Scheme.

The village of Ballylanders is on a busy road, via Mitchelstown, to Cork and it needs to project its best image.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The streetscape of Ballylanders has a uniqueness of its own in that it is very wide as it sweeps up the hill giving it a very impressive look.

At the moment it is not doing itself justice in some respects. The condition of the road through the village is not of the same standard as the approaches from Knocklong or Mitchelstown.

Like many other places it has its problems with dereliction, it is a pity to see such an impressive two storey house like O' Gormans in a state of disrepair.

Like wise the old forge on the Bog Road, which was once a hive of activity, is now crumbling and overgrown.

On the positive side some individual businesses and householders have presented their respective premises to a very high standard.

The major industries in Ballylanders; Galtee Wood Products and Tonedale Bedding have projected a good image.

The public buildings such as the Church, School and War of Independence Statue were in good condition.

The GAA Grounds were also in excellent condition.

But for this adjudicator the main bone of contention is the condition of the old church at the top of the hill.

This historical building, featured in a number of Shell Guides to Ireland, has been in a derelict condition for far too long.

It is a focal point and surely something can be done to restore it.

LANDSCAPING

This is a sector which Ballylanders could do well in if a landscaping plan was put in place.

The Village amenity park on the Kilfinane Road is in excellent condition and if this type of approach could be applied to appropriate little planting schemes around the village and its surrounds it would help brighten the image. The trees, which are effectively placed along both sides of the main street, are matured but many of the stone bases are either broken or overgrown

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

In order to make strides in this sector the Committee should consult with the County Council to help initiate a wildlife project in the immediate village area as has been done in Griston Bog.

LITTER CONTROL

This sector needs immediate attention, as there was a little too much litter evident on adjudication day.

Again the committee will have to take the initiative here and try and put in place a litter control programme that will be effective.

Advice should be sought from the County Environmental Officer.

TIDINESS

It is important that an awareness programme, outlining the key issues under this category ,be put in place.

The need for effective weed control is paramount in achieving an effective tidiness programme.

There is a need for additional bins in the village and this could be done by joint partnership of Limerick County Council and local businesses.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard was quite good with the older terrace of houses both at the top of the village and on the Bog Road looking very well indeed.

The new terrace further up the village on the Mitchelstown Road was a little mixed and it is up to the residents to become involved by ensuring that the estate and surrounding green area are well presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this sector needs to improve as the entrances into the village are pleasant and it would only take a little effort to make them more effective.

The Galbally road entrance with its impressive low stonewall was a little too overgrown and untidy. The other entrances were somewhat better but some signs were obscured on the Mitchestown Road entrance and on the Bog Road

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballylanders is a pleasant and historical village, which has the potential to do better.

The adjudicator realises that is over eight years since it has entered the competition and that things will not happen overnight.

I feel that it is imperative to have a committee dedicated to the improvement of the village, one that will encourage the local community to become involved over the years ahead. I am well aware of the great spirit that prevails in Ballylanders and I sincerely hope that the Village will achieve good results in the Competition in the years ahead. Keep up the effort