

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GALBALLY**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	18	17
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	35
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	250	247

Galbally, County Limerick

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the completed entry form, copy of 3 year plan and the very practical sketch map which was of immense help to this adjudicator in identifying areas in the village and its surrounds. Last years adjudication was undertaken during a period when the village was totally disrupted because of ongoing pipe laying work. This year the exact opposite prevailed and the village was seen at its best. The new exceptional road surface and absence of overhead wires seems to magnify the village square and make the place more appealing. Galbally seems to be more refreshed than in the last few years and no doubt improvements in the infrastructure have helped. One comes to expect high standards from all the community in Galbally and indeed this year one was not to be disappointed. The Tidy Towns Committee, which is one of the most progressive in the country, certainly has the goodwill of local people. The relationship between it the County Council and other relevant agencies is probably the envy of most other communities. The results of all this positive interaction can be seen all around the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Commercial premises and private dwellings in village were presented to a very high standard without exception. Even the problem of dereliction that beset most towns and villages was treated in a sensitive manner by subtle camouflaging. The addition of some new premises built in keeping with the character of Galbally is a big bonus. Also it is good to note that a number of established premises that had fallen behind in presentation standards were in the process of being restored. It looks like the Celtic Tiger has paid a visit to Galbally but he has not been allowed to run amok. The colour scheme for the village was again much admired it was bright and effective and individual householders as well as business owners deserve credit for taking time to paint their respective premises. It would be unfair to single out individual premises suffice to say that the vast majority looked extremely well on adjudication day. The public buildings such as the Church, Community Hall, School and grounds and the Garveyard were all presented to a very high standard. Also I would like to comment on the excellent manner in which the War of Independence Memorial is maintained. The local people who are responsible for the up keep of these public properties deserve a special mention for their efforts

LANDSCAPING

You have been very practical in your approach to good landscaping, the village is not over beautified with flower boxes and hanging baskets but what is in place is very

colourful. The manner in which trees have been maintained in stone surrounds accentuated with a coat of white paint is very effective. The Moore Abbey and the adjacent picnic area were once again very well presented but here is one area that might benefit from a little additional colour. The planting features such as the ones on the Ballylanders Road, at the Graveyard Car Park and opposite Pine View on the More Abbey Road are maturing nicely.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is good to see that there is ongoing activity in this category and the production of nature walks leaflets is welcomed. This Committee should try and encourage the local school to get involved in the proposed project to erect nature and historic signs around the village.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was excellent on adjudication day and credit is due to the local community and not least the schoolchildren for their contribution. There was a sufficient number of well-maintained bins dotted around the village.

TIDINESS

The standard in this category was quite good and there were no outside disruptive influences this year. A little weed growth was evident nears auctioneers yard and at Moorabey car park. It might seem a very small issue but a dilapidated B& B sign opposite the river stands out like a sore thumb it should be either revitalised or removed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Galtee View, Pine Avenue and Marian Terrace were in excellent condition and some residences had very pleasant gardens. To maintain this consistent standard is demanding but it has its rewards.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All main approach roads were maintained to a very high standard, verges cut back and hedgerows treated sensitively. The planting arrangements on approach roads already alluded to elsewhere, created good first impressions of the village. All signs were clean and clearly visible

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This year Galbally has looked really refreshed and in top condition against the majestic Galtee Mountains. The Committee has over the years addressed issues of concern

and dealt with them in an effective manner. This has led to success in the competition culminating with the ultimate award in 1994.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (03/08/00)

The former winning town of Galbally looked well on second adjudication day. The many attractive landscaping features throughout the village and along approach roads were greatly admired – in particular the well maintained picnic areas by Moore Abbey and the incidental planted bed filled with petunias, roses and montbretia on the Tipperary Road. The abundance of hanging baskets along the main streets looked most cheerful. The large industrial buildings on the Tipperary Road were in need of a fresh coat of paint although the new sandstone walling was greatly admired. The adjudicator was pleased to note that road surfaces were back to normal and indeed in very good condition compared to last year. The Square is a magnificent feature – in particular the thick bushy lush trees of all varieties surrounding it which looked marvellous. The village sports some fine traditional shop fronts which were generally well maintained. The out building at the car park adjacent to the well maintained Community Centre should be re-whitewashed before next year's competition. Do remember to include gable walls when considering presentation of buildings, as these are all too apparent as one travels along the streets of the town.