

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINALEE**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	23	22
Landscaping	40	22	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	17	18
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	18
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	162	158

Ballinalee, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballinalee is welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the third millennium. The village is a crossroads village located on a busy thoroughfare from the county town Longford to Granard, and as such experiences a lot of traffic and noise pollution. The difficulties facing the committee in responding to the situation is appreciated by the adjudicator. It is good to note the financial support received from local business and local organisations and also your liaisons with FAS, the county council and schools.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Construction work was ongoing in the village centre during adjudication. No doubt this will give new life to the village and enhance the built environment significantly as the locations are so prominent. The centre of the village at the crossroads is quite wide on the Edgeworthstown side and there is plenty of scope here for some good urban design. Although the village is a simple crossroads layout, the existence of the substantial rise in the road at the crossroads makes it more interesting. The Stags Head is impressive in its size, site and colour. Town houses are well presented. Most business premises look well, Kings, Farrells, Gormans and the Stags Head.

LANDSCAPING

Trees on the Longford road are maturing well. Some hedgerow or climbing plants could be planted to the wire fencing of the Builders Supply yard. Landscaping at the church and the grotto looks well. Flower displays are colourful. Choose shrubs and trees that will enhance wildlife.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The graveyard look well. You don't seem to have a project ongoing under wildlife. The purpose of this category is simply to heighten awareness of the wildlife of an area, to identify it, to take any necessary protective measure and to promote awareness. A simple survey of hedgerow species might be a good starting point. Well done on the development of the fine basketball court at the sports grounds. Another appropriate project might be to develop a nature trail through the woodland area out the Edgeworthstown road.

LITTER CONTROL

Congratulations on your school project to achieve better litter control. Send us in details of this next year. Congratulations

also on your weekly sweep up of the village. Some litter in the form of plastic wrapping bags were noted, one near the nameplate on the Longford road, another across from the school on the Granard road. Litter control was not good, there were fairly substantial outbreaks of litter in the village centre also.

TIDINESS

Sprayed weeds along footpaths and kerbs have to be removed as they are unsightly when dead. Some farm outbuildings marking the entrance from one road are in need of attention and a residential property could be rewhitewashed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Some roadside areas to boundary walls of residential properties are poorly presented, one example being a house across from the national school on the Granard road. Roadside boundary walls to residential properties marking the entrance to the village from the Granard road in almost all respects need cleaning and / or painting. Grassed roadside areas to boundary fences and hedges on the road to the GAA grounds are being well maintained. The new residential development looks well and when its roadside shrubbery matures, it will have an even greater impact on the villagescape.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Well done on the maintenance of the existing stone wall. Approach roads to the village had been recently cut for adjudication and looked quite well. A number of road signs were in need of cleaning, including the nameplate on the Longford road. Well done on the new footpath out the Granard road, some flowering shrubs should now be planted to its inside along the concrete post fencing. The nameplate on one road ought to be relocated as it is almost hidden. A speed limit sign could be cleaned also. Some street bins need refurbishment. The seating built into the wall on the Edgeworthstown road is most attractive.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballinalee is an attractive village and is a pleasure to adjudicate.