

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINAMUCK**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	21
The Built Environment	40	23	21
Landscaping	40	28	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	8	8
Litter Control	40	21	21
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	16
General Impression	10	7	5
TOTAL MARK	300	160	139

Ballinamuck, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Congratulations on an impressive increase in marks in the Tidy Towns Competition as Ballinamuck enters the third millennium. Ballinamuck's presentation complements its magnificent setting in gently rolling hills and lush pasture land. There are some excellent scenic views both into and out of the village.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The majority of buildings are very well presented. The '98 Bar' looks excellent and, of course, the 'Battle Field Centre' and church and school are very well presented also. The church wall could be upgraded and some of the retaining walls to the carpark of the Battle Field Centre are a little weather stained and might be planted with a red or variegated ivy or other appropriate climbing plant. Well done on stone wall restoration.

LANDSCAPING

The Garden of Remembrance is a lovely element of your village. Tree planting has been successful as trees are maturing and adding a nice touch to the overall presentation. Some stretches of wire and post fencing could be planted with beech and hawthorn hedgerow. The stretch of hedgerow located across from the Garden of Remembrance is being nicely managed. It is good to note that you have chosen 'native' tree species in order to support and encourage wildlife.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The birdsong noted during adjudication is indicative of the rich variety of wildlife in the immediate hinterland of Ballinamuck. A suitable project would be to identify the various wildlife habitats and threats in order to ensure their protection and conservation in the face of further development. The wild flowers on approach roads into the villages, Cow Parsley, Buttercups and others were quite dazzling in their effect. As you are probably aware the cut off date for cutting hedgerow is mid April. After this date both wildlife and the hedgerow itself is at risk by cutting.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was quite good, there were no serious problems under this heading. Do keep us informed of other litter control activities besides periodic clean ups.

TIDINESS

Derelict properties remain a problem under this heading. A number of roadside edges need to be reinstated, these tend to look quite untidy also. Sprayed weeds should be removed as they can look unsightly when they are discoloured.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential properties are quite well presented. Encourage householders to extend their attention to side and back areas which can be seen from the public road and to boundary walls and roadside areas to these.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The village centre looks wonderful with its wirescape ducted, its newly surfaced footpaths, its attractive lampstandards and its well maintained buildings. Under this heading the major problems to be addressed are the standard of roadside edges on the periphery of the village and a number of under-developed sites. Many field gates need to be upgraded, perhaps a colour scheme could be adopted for these. Some stretches of hedgerow need to be reinstated. Well done on the new stretches of the stone wall.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Ballinamuck is most favourable and the adjudicator was pleasantly surprised at its many nice features.