

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYMAHON**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	28
The Built Environment	40	25	22
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	11
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	22	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	174	166

Ballymahon, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballymahon is welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the third millennium. Thank you for your completed application and details of both your development plan and your traffic survey. It is good to note that you receive support from the local community and are working in partnership with the County Council and FAS. Well done on a number of handsome additions to the built environment. The village enjoys an enviable location on the river Inny and near the Royal Canal. Ballymahon is a handsome town comprising of a successful mix of single, two and three storey buildings and has important historic buildings also. The town boasts good wide footpaths and has interesting incidental areas also. We look forward to your continued participation in the competition and to noting your progress over the coming years. Your Goldsmith Summer School and Festival and Canoe Race are excellent ways of promoting your valuable heritage. We wish you well in your activities regarding Town Twinning.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The new buildings near the river are being finished to a good standard and are impressive in scale and design. Now that the large commercial building has been sold, no doubt there will be further redevelopments here. All of this will rejuvenate the village. We wish you well with your redevelopment of the Market House. The school looks well and landscaping to its roadside edge is superb, however the boundary wall here could be refurbished. The Library looks exceptionally well. The P.J. Diffley building is presented to a high standard which is good as it is an important focal point of the town, especially on approaching from the Edgeworthstown road. Keep up the effort to have all plastic neon signs removed from buildings. There is a wonderful view of the town on entering from the Mullingar road. The boundary wall of the Health Centre leading to the housing estate is in need of attention, although the Health Centre itself look well. The overall standard of presentation is good for buildings, but try to keep plastic neon signs to a minimum together with plastic awnings and canopies.

LANDSCAPING

Trees along the main street are maturing well and flower displays are colourful. The landscaped areas marking the entrances to the town are an excellent introduction to Ballymahon. Your landscaping programme might be extended to incorporate the walls of the Livestock Mart and a climbing plant might also be attached to the old stone building at the top of the Edgeworthstown road. Choose plant species that will complement wildlife.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The roadside boundary wall to the sports grounds is well presented and will continue to improve as the climbing plants here mature. Some resurfacing to the roadside area is necessary. The purpose of this category in the competition is to promote an awareness of wildlife and its value to the community and to take whatever protective measures are necessary. Ballymahon is a village that is obviously growing and developing at quite a fast pace and wildlife may suffer as a result, so perhaps a good place to start would be to do a survey of wildlife and explore the possible dangers and necessary protective measures. This might be accomplished in conjunction with a schools programme.

LITTER CONTROL

Well done on your litter campaign through the schools. Litter control was quite good overall but particular weak spots were in the housing development beside the Health Centre and also an area beside Finnegan's Garage. Perhaps litter bins could be located in these areas or perhaps more regular pick-ups might need to be organised, particularly at the housing estate.

TIDINESS

The derelict petrol pumps should be removed or masked. It is a pity about the site with vehicle wrecks at the top of the Athlone road as it not only looks untidy but also spoils another potentially scenic view of the town.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Infill residential development on the main street and side streets are successful. A new residential development on the Edgeworthstown road has been noted, which no doubt will be finished to an excellent standard. A good overall presentation.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Parking along the main street is quite extensive, it would be less visually obtrusive if cars were encouraged to park side to kerb rather than end to kerb. The litter bin outside the school at the Longford end of the town need to be repainted. The stone wall out the Mullingar road should be revealed more and highlighted as a feature of this entrance to the village. Well done on the new footpaths at the top of the Edgeworthstown road. Consider a design study for the main street to give a more pedestrian focus.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Ballymahon is one of an extremely

busy village which is growing rapidly and which is challenged in responding to this growth but one which is meeting the challenge admirably.