

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLINA-MAYO**  
County : **MAYO**  
Category : **E**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	36
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	16	17
Tidiness	20	9	10
Residential Areas	30	16	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>178</b>

## **Ballina, County Mayo**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Ballina Tidy Towns Committee have put together a programme that is most practical, having identified areas to improve upon and indicated which of those have been achieved to date. Your plans for introducing new lighting and bi-lingual cast iron nameplates was noted and is eagerly awaited. Your identification of Primrose Hill as notable heritage site is most important given Ballina's location in an area of such archaeological significance. Good luck with your work in conjunction with the OPW in this regard.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The standard in this category of the competition was quite inconsistent. Many premises were quite fresh including Tullio's with its abundant displays of hanging baskets and window boxes, Walkin Travel in its cheerful colours, the Post Office in its prominent location on Bury Street, Brennan's and the Barge on Tone Street. There are many unusual and attractive buildings of various architectural styles which would benefit greatly from sensitive and sympathetic restoration. For example, the Old Moy Hotel, Garret Loftus, the building housing Rouse's Jewellery and Heffernan's with its attractive stonework above ground level. The latter sported some very unattractive weed growth at first floor level as did the nearby Wellworths. The new hotel and apartments on Barrett Street with their attractive combination of stone and plaster leading down to the riverside were most interesting. The pharmacy and Cobou Boutique are attractive simple modern shop fronts, the former in a limestone front with turquoise window frames. The UDC was fine as was the Fire Station and Library. Scoil Padraig, its boundary wall and rusty railings should be dealt with before next year's competition. The Crescent House B&B and Pub in its rich orange colour looked well as did the Riverboat Inn in stone and plaster and Murphy Brother's with its well planted veranda at first floor level. The Savoy Cinema is an attractive old Art Deco building which would also benefit greatly from sensitive restoration.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The standard in this category was somewhat inconsistent. The mosaic to the well on the Killala Road with its backdrop of Stations of the Cross appeared to be in bad condition. The landscaping to Marion Crescent looked most attractive with its new stone wall, thick permanent planting and silver birches. However, the riverside area detracted greatly from the good impression it created as it was extremely littered and weedy and had evidence of dumping including two shopping trolleys and an orange traffic cone. The main riverside areas were well maintained such as the lower level walkway to the river

by the church (although this was weedier nearer to the bridge). Those spaces looking over the river on Quay Road with their seated platforms are most attractive. Do make more use of these types of areas that to the apartments and hotel is most successful judging by the number of fishermen to be seen in that vicinity. A pretty bed with geraniums and other flowers at the Quay Road/Sligo Road junction looked well. Tom Ruane Park was fine, your plans in relation to this were noted and the surrounding stone wall was under construction on the day. A very grubby boundary wall at the junction of Pierce and Humbert Streets detracted somewhat from the attractive planted bed. The forecourt area to the shops by Marion Crescent would benefit greatly from landscaping to soften its impact.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The Ridge Pool and riverside areas are most important as indeed are the plans for the woods and duck pond. The Bunree Bridge area is obviously an important one supporting as it does a multitude of wildlife habitats.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The standard could have been better on the day- quite a lot was evident to the main streets of the town. The old exposed aggregate concrete litter bins were in bad condition – the metal tops were rusty and the concrete bases sported green mould. The new cast iron ones that were in position were admired. Quite a lot of litter was evident on Quay Road particularly around the Riverboat Inn, more was blowing around near Our Lady's Statue on the Sligo approach and a lot was evident to the stream in front of Marion Crescent. The standard on Mc.Dermott Street could also have been improved upon.

## **TIDINESS**

Again this was a problem area, the dumping in the stream by Marion Crescent of not one but two shopping trolleys and an orange cone as well as a multitude of litter was quite unfortunate. There are a number of outbuildings in a bad state of repair which should be repainted, such as the tin roof to a shed near Dunnes Stores and a tin roofed shed and empty building with broken windows on Pound Street. The slates of the canopy to the former appeared to be in bad condition- and some were falling off. A mural depicting boxers at the junction of Quay Road and Sligo Road should be repainted as it looks quite faded and flaky.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The standard in this category of the competition was good, on the whole. Of note were an attractive stone cottage at right

angles to the road on the Killala approach, a pretty creeper-clad cottage and the attractive gardens to houses and B&B's on Quay Road, which looked quite magnificent. An attractive steeply-roofed house with dormer windows stepping down to the river on this road looked quite neglected. This would be a most attractive property if restored to its former glory. The abundance of empty houses on Mc Dermott Street created a bad impression, while an attractive new development of yellow houses off this street was greatly admired. The boundary wall of Marian Crescent was quite neglected and should be improved upon before next year.

### **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The Killala Road was not presented to its best advantage due to the construction and road works. The concealed entrance sign was quite grubby but the new trees were coming along well. The well cut grass verges and relatively new trees of the Foxford Road created a good impression. Quay Road is an attractive approach to the town, with its viewing areas to the river, multitude of boats and glimpses of the church steeple and hill beyond. However, some weeds were apparent at kerbsides. The main streets were fine, Ballina has some interesting laneways and archways which are ripe for development. Directional signs on Pound Street were in bad condition but allowances were made as construction work was in progress on the day.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Ballina is an attractive town with its centrally located river. Much angling activity was seen at the river on the day.