

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINTUBBER-MAYO**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	196	191

Ballintubber, County Mayo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator was pleased to note that Ballintubber Tourism Co-op have taken on board the comments made in last year's adjudication and are using them in combination with those of previous years to form the basis for your work programme. As mentioned in last year's report you have a very large area to cover. Hence, is difficult to establish a cohesion within this area, given that you are covering a large number of various townlands.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The few buildings scattered along the roads of Ballintubber were generally well presented on the day. Campus Oil Filling Station is quite a charming traditional building to the side of the main garage with a large arched doorway in the gable. The school looked very fresh in yellow with its boundary wall and the new trees popping up from behind are coming along nicely. The attractive timber fence to the pathway was admired. The garden centre in the same vicinity looked quite charming. The adjudicator was pleased to note that the Celtic Furrow was virtually finished – all that seems to be in need of completion was the paving to the front and the stone boundary wall. The adjacent Mary Moran's Cottage looked quite charming and freshly whitewashed with red frames and its attractive floral display of roses. Corley's Bar Lounge and Restaurant opposite the abbey could be freshened up before next years competition.

LANDSCAPING

This is an aspect of the competition which you obviously enjoy. The attractive display of planting on the Ballinrobe Road including the old donkey cart filled with flowers was well maintained. The boat filled with flowers at the car park area opposite the entrance to the abbey also looked well. However, the adjacent information board appeared quite flaky and should be repaired. The landscaping of the abbey and its surrounding grounds looked quite magnificent with some fabulous statuary – obviously a lot of imagination and hard work has gone in to its production. Some of the signage within the grounds was in need of upgrading.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your efforts in regard to the planting of wild flowers and indigenous trees is to be commended. Perhaps you could involve the local school children in putting together a map indicating the areas of wildlife importance within the village and its surroundings and incorporating this with your local walks.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard in this category of the competition was very good on the day although there were one or two outbreaks. A couple of papers were evident along the Castlebar Road and some cans were noted on the Ballinrobe Road. A few papers were also seen along the road outside the abbey. Generally the standard was very good.

TIDINESS

The villagely and its surrounding roads were generally of a neat and ordered appearance on the day. However, an abandoned house opposite Mary Moran's cottage creates a bad impression as one travelled along the road. Weeds are apparent to the gutter and it looks extremely neglected. Signage in terms of information boards etc. could be improved upon as they appeared quite flaky and badly in need of repainting on the day.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standards of houses along the roads was generally very good. Some attractive gardens were noted such as that to a bungalow with an orange boundary wall and another on the Ballinrobe Road. A house extending whose stone beds planted with flowers extended to the roadside was greatly admired. A boundary wall in stone was being built on the road from Abbey to Castleburke. Some of the houses along this road sported some magnificent displays of tubs and hanging baskets filled with flowers, including one with a magnificent display of Easter lilies in the garden. Some cheerful snapdragons were noted to the front of a boundary wall in close proximity to Castleburke.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Along the Castlebar Road the new trees were coming along nicely and the grass verges were well maintained. Daisies were spotted along the grassy banks. You have a large area to cover and given this the verges were extremely neat. You have shown a good use of indigenous trees for your new planting. Along the Ballinrobe Road the timber welcome sign looks quite flaky and should be revarnished and the village nameplate was slightly on the faded side. The road to the Tubber Abbey was improved. However, grass was still evident to the middle of the road leading up to Castleburke, as mentioned in last year's report. This road was admired for its relatively new lime trees which were coming along nicely, wild daisies, hawthorns, fuchsia and honeysuckle to the hedgerows. In terms of street furniture the phone box should be painted before next year's competition.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

As previously stated, the committee has a vast area to cover in its presentation and given this factor the village looked extremely well. There is obviously a high level of pride of place within the village and surroundings.