

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYCASTLE**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 22-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	27	25
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	23	21
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	19	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	21
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	185	172

Ballycastle, County Mayo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

You obviously have a good level of support both practical and financial. The adjudicator was particularly pleased to note the commitment you are getting from the school children. There is obviously a good sense of civic pride in the village. Do you have a work programme? – If so, do submit it for next year's competition. Otherwise you should formulate a work plan to give yourselves a structured framework within which to work.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most buildings of the town looked well cared for on adjudication day. May's Cottage Kitchen was quite charming with its colourful displays of tubs and hanging baskets of fuchsias. O'Grady's Butchers was very fresh as indeed was the terrace of three in that location. Generally the standard was extremely good – don't forget to paint chimney stacks when considering your overall presentation. Both churches were extremely good – the Church of Ireland set back from the road with its adjacent charming stone building and window boxes was admired. Siopa Suifinn would have looked most attractive had it been more freshly painted. The rusty and mustard earth tones to the artist's retreat in the centre of the village looked quite charming. The fine stone building with its archway and brick surrounds was also admired. Do encourage the removal of projecting plastic signs and their replacement with more traditional timber ones. The derelict stone building on the Ballina side of the village had been painted up – however, the gable had been neglected. Both the Fire and Garda Stations were very fresh – the Parish Hall should be freshened up before next year's competition and a minor outbreak of graffiti was evident here. Barrett's is an attractive traditional front which would benefit even from a fresh coat of paint.

LANDSCAPING

The flower filled tubs on the Ballina Road were admired. The graveyard was well maintained although there was some evidence of weed growth at the path. The attractive landscaped area at the Crossmolina Road was admired and work was underway in that location on the day. The attractive stepped dry stone walling at the beach with its triangular shaped stone features and horizontal emphasis was most unusual and was particularly admired by the adjudicator. The new trees and wild daisies by the junction of the road to the beach also looked well.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your campaign to plant berried trees for the purpose of attracting birds is a good one. Do try to get a local expert involved and put together a study of the habitats in your area perhaps combining it with a nature trail. There is obviously a wealth of wildlife habitats in your location. The cheerful yellow bog irises on the road to the beach were admired.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard in this category of the competition was generally very good. A single paper was evident on the Ballina Road although a greater number were evident by the speed limit sign on the Rathlackan Road. The very odd paper was evident on Main Street – obviously the new bins are doing their job! The adjudicator was pleased to note that a regular team clears up the litter at the beach. Unfortunately there was an outbreak in that location on the day, possibly washed in by the tide.

TIDINESS

The village generally looked very neat on adjudication day. Do discourage the practice of hoardings particularly in the village centre. A minor outbreak of weeds was evident to the base of the stone boundary wall to the holiday cottages on the Ballina side of the village. Weeds were also evident to Deane's Bar. Fly posting in the centre of the village was quite battered and gave a bad impression. The buildings opposite the Catholic Church, as mentioned before, looked quite neglected and forlorn.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The cottage beside Mary's Country Kitchen was very fresh. The gabled houses on the Ballina Road were generally in good order, bar one. The holiday cottages with their tubs at the entrance and attractive central grass mound with slated retaining walls/seating was greatly admired. In particular, the fact that each house door was a different colour is particularly clever as it gives variety. Houses on the Rathlackan Road seemed in the process of being painted on the day -half had been freshly painted and the other half looked quite drab in comparison. The pretty cottages opposite the Crossmolina Road were admired. A single boundary wall of a house on the road to the beach was in sharp contrast to a freshly painted one adjacent.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Belderry Road is a short approach into the village. The stone wall was admired, however, the sign should be freshly painted up, as should the speed limit sign on this side. The relatively new trees to the Ballina Road were coming along well and the fine stone walling was admired. Do try to remove

hoardings along this road. The well cut grass verges to the front of the gabled house was admired, as indeed were the new pavings and curbs in this location. The stone wall on the Rathlackan Road was admired. However, the speed limit sign on this road was quite crooked. The Crossmolina Road was generally well maintained. However, it was slightly overgrown by the village nameplate which as a result was virtually obscured – it was in need of a fresh coat of paint also. The road to the beach affords the visitor a magnificent view to the steeples of the churches set among the trees and the roof line of the village rising up to meet them. In terms of street furniture the relatively new lamp standards on Main Street are most elegant and the new seating was admired. The granite steps with limestone surrounds to the bases of trees looked most impressive.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballycastle is an attractive village with its gently rising Main Street of colourful houses in a magnificent location. It is both simple and charming and has all the ingredients to do well in the competition.