

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLYBOY**  
County : **OFFALY**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	25
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	26	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	34	35
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>188</b>

## **Ballyboy, County Offaly**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Ballyboy is welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the third millennium. The village which is located on a river and on the 'Offaly Way' is tiny with many attractive features such as stone walls, nicely landscaped areas and historical elements such as the old church and graveyard. Well done on the erection of the Millennium Stone. There appears to be a strong commitment by the community to their village and its natural environment.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Dan and Molly's thatched pub is charming. The school and its grounds looks especially well and the mature tree is a striking feature. The 'Pepsi' sign should be removed from Haydens shop and replaced, if necessary, with an externally illuminated non-plastic, non-neon sign. The 'Guinness' sign could also be replaced with a more modern sign on Dan and Molly's. Some properties need to be re-whitewashed, particularly gable ends. A sign should be provided for the Community Hall.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The mature yew trees and cypress trees in the graveyard are handsome features. Landscaping to the concrete block wall across from the school is effective and will become more so as it matures. The landscaped green verge marking the entrance from the Mount Bolus road looks especially well and will be enhanced as young trees here mature.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The numerous displays of wildflowers around the village are a welcome sight. The river running through the village presents an opportunity for a wildlife project. Your Tidy Towns Handbook contains some excellent advice on how to go about this. Rubble on the bank of the river suggests that perhaps an amenity development is planned here.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control is good, however a little litter was noted on one of the approach roads. A small village should be entirely litter free most of the time. You may need to review your litter management strategy.

### **TIDINESS**

The village had a neat and tidy appearance during adjudication, well done! Make sure the rubble is removed

from the river bank when work has been completed and be vigilant regarding weed growth at the base of walls, etc.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The roadside boundary to the residential property at the top of the Kilcormac road (across from the graveyard) needs to be upgraded in one section. The good quality black timber fencing along most of its boundary however was admired. Most residential properties are well presented. The single storey dwellings in the village centre are charming.

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

The Cadamstown entrance into the village is attractive with its neatly maintained green verges and the thatched Bar and Lounge premises marking the entrance to the village core. The spire of the old church heralds the entrance to Ballyboy from the Kinnitty road and the colourful displays of wildflowers to the roadside boundary wall of the graveyard here more than compensates for the derelict state of this building. The Kilcormac entrance looks poor with the high grey boundary wall of the graveyard, some planting to this wall might soften its visual impact. The new stretch of stone wall at the old national school looks well. The plaque on the litter bin outside of the school could be refurbished. The wirescape is quite visually obtrusive for a village of this size. No doubt you have made inquiries regarding having service cables ducted. We appreciate that this may take a number of years before you are successful.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Ballyboy is a charming village, rural in character and is a pleasure to adjudicate.