

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLINACARROW**  
County : **SLIGO**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20	20
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	10
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>174</b>

## **Ballinacarrow, County Sligo**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your completed entry form, supporting map and comments. As part of this section of the competition, the committee are requested to submit a concise 3/5 year plan. This plan should outline achievable targets for the committee under the various headings of the competition. This will help focus your work and plans for the future. Advertising the plan or displaying it in a prominent location has worked for other participants in fostering local interest and co-operation. It may even foster community involvement and fund-raising activities as you stated that the village is "very active socially".

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Many of the business premises and homes in the village looked well on the day of adjudication. The Church is a very attractive focal building on the approach to the village but the untidy area outside the walls continues to detract. The untidy building on the Rathcarrow road is still very unsightly. Dereliction is a challenge faced imaginatively by many participants. A simple whitewash and cosmetic repairs would also improve the appearance of the derelict shed by the school entrance and the farm building in the centre of the village. Fallon's shop, the pub and the new antique shop also looked well.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The stone sign posts on the approach to the village remain incomplete and would look well if completed. The simple but effective perennial bed in front of the farm building looks well but could be similarly duplicated at the "thinning" shrub bed in front of the school and Community Care Centre. The trees on the corner of the Rathcarrow Road are maturing nicely. There are some future opportunities for the judicious planting of trees in the village that would also contribute towards your work in the Wildlife and Natural Amenities section of the competition.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

As stated last year, the committee has an important role to play in this important area of the competition. While acknowledging that the village is on a main road, there are still opportunities for enhancing and conserving wildlife habitats and the environment within the village. Once again the river is the first and obvious choice. The area behind the school could sustain hedgerows, wildflower meadows, pond/water feature, nesting box sites, all important areas in their own right that are worthy of consideration and preservation. Try to get the school children involved in this area of the competition. Work with local relevant bodies, ENFO or the local wildlife expert, to plan and develop this important aspect

of the competition for the benefit of the whole community.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There was very little litter in the village on the day of adjudication, although there was some litter in the river itself. The committee must remain vigilant in this important area of the competition. Community clean-up days and school awareness programmes are good ways to promote litter awareness. Ensure your bins are well maintained and well done for your Plastic Bag Project - an original and effective idea!

## **TIDINESS**

The section deals with the overall tidiness of the whole village, both private and public areas, as detailed in last year's report. It was good to see some improvements in the village. The building on the Rathcarrow Road continues to attract rubbish and rubble and is an eyesore. The concrete holding pens on the main road almost opposite the church also need some attention.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Once again the houses throughout the village were generally well maintained. Some lovely gardens, hedges and flowers were noted. Well done to all concerned.

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

Last year's comments about the lay-by on the Sligo Road still apply. The grass verges on the approach road had not been mowed prior to adjudication, but an open grass area on the Galway side of the village looked well. Footpaths and kerbs were generally well maintained but ensure that they are kept weed free and the new stone wall outside the Community Centre also looked well.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Last year's comments still apply under this heading. Ballinacarrow could optimise its location on N17, its parking and service facilities, by enhancing its features to encourage passers by to stop and stay. The committee needs to work with the entire community to draft a future plan that will enhance the village for everyone's benefit.

