

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINTOGHER**
County : **SLIGO**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	33
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	27	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	198	192

Ballintogher, Sligo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed entry form and supporting material. Your brochure looks very well, well done to all concerned. Your review of the progress and targets achieved since 1996 is also very impressive and you should all be justifiably proud of your success to date. Persevere with your outstanding targets and continue to build on the success you have achieved. The community, village environment and its visitors will continue to benefit from your interest and hard work.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Once again, St. Treasa's Church, the Community Centre, School and many of the private homes in the village looked tidy and well maintained on the day of adjudication. M. Lanes caught the eye as did the backyard of H. Morans. The new Craft Units will look very well when completed and will certainly add a new dimension to the life of the village. On the Dromahair Road, the small cottage on the right leaving the village still needs to be tidied and the new housing development with its attractive stone wall will look very well upon completion. A house and sheds opposite the church looked very smart and tidy with its particularly effective screening gate. The Grotto in the village centre also looked well, as did the attractive period houses on the corner behind the grotto. The roof has collapsed on the old sheds on the right heading for Riverstown. While they can still be salvaged and their presentation improved by some simple cosmetics, there is now a more increased urgency to do something about them. Similarly the shed close to the playing field has also deteriorated and looks very untidy. These two sites along with the farmyard close to the new Craft Units will continue to detract from the overall presentation of your village and need to be tackled in the short term.

LANDSCAPING

The many colourful tubs window boxes and flower features looked very attractive, adding a lovely splash of colour to the village. The landscape features throughout the village similarly looked very well and the new beds on the Sligo Road and in the amenity park looked very nice. Some lovely nasturtiums were noted at along the base of the wall opposite the school, as were the new tubs in the school grounds. The rosebeds at the playing field also looked very well, but the flower features at the pump on this road need some attention to remain effective. Your new amenity park will be a lovely asset and feature within the village and will

be enjoyed by many. The already planted perennial beds look well and reflect an effective choice of plants that will provide colour and content throughout the year.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Tidy Towns Committee has acknowledged its responsibility to promote and enhance wildlife habitats in the village. The new amenity area will provide some additional opportunities for development under this heading including trees, hedge rows, nesting boxes, Bat boxes, water/pond features and possibly a wildflower area. Work with a local expert or ENFO in relation to optimising this location. There is also a mature wooded area beside the church which could be considered if possible for some wildlife features. As mentioned in previous reports, plan and design your nature signs with care, to avoid a proliferation of inappropriately made signs that may defeat your aim of enhancing the villages natural environment.

LITTER CONTROL

There was very little litter evident in the village on the day of adjudication, although a little was noted on the Sligo Road. Your smart litter bins are impressive and both your clean up days, your work with the young people and the anti litter competition are commendable projects. It is very important that both the T.T.C. and the whole community remain vigilant in this important area.

TIDINESS

The overall impression of the village was one of general tidiness. However there are some premises and areas that continue to taint the picture. One or two individual property owners in the village centre need to work on the maintenance and presentation of their forecourts and boundary walls. There is an abandoned car in a garden opposite the community centre which needs to be removed. The old school on the Sligo Road appears to have become a centre for collecting and burning rubbish and it looks very unsightly. This may explain the odd bits of litter on this road. The committee has demonstrated its effective ability to tackle the challenge of dereliction and hopefully you will be able to resolve the issues mentioned already. It is important that all areas of the village are appropriately maintained, kept tidy and litter / weed free, including forecourts, back yards, kerb edges, all open spaces and areas between properties. Back alleys/yards, should be appropriately screened, particularly in areas that will attract rubbish or dumping. Ensure that your new recycling bins are appropriately positioned and screened if necessary.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Once again many of the homes in and on the approaches to the village were generally well presented and maintained with some tidy gardens, hedges and colourful flower features noted. The new beds at the housing development opposite the playing field will look very well when completed. It is good to see some new family homes being built in the village and hopefully the builders will finish the site appropriately.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The bi-lingual Failte signs and landscaping create a lovely welcome to the village. The approach roads generally looked well with some nicely faced hedges and tidy verges although some road surfaces need attention. There is a nice stone wall being built on the Riverstown Road and hopefully the open site on this road will be appropriately finished. There are footpaths on this road that also need attention. There are still some stone walls on the approach roads that could be initially tided to improve their presentation. Work continues on the Car Park and Amenity Area which looks very impressive.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballintogher continues to develop and impress. As stated last year, your plans for the future continues to demonstrate the committed enthusiasm of the T.T.C and the community for improvement of their village environment. Perseverance and attention to detail by all will gain its own rewards.