

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLYMOTE**  
County : **SLIGO**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	25	29
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	18
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>174</b>

## **Ballymote, County Sligo**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the completed entry form, map, and supporting material. Last years comments in this section still apply regarding the inclusion of the plan you submitted previously. The supporting material you did enclose, outlines all the areas and issues within the town that needs to be addressed. Using it as a guideline the committee need to draft a concise 3/5 year plan outlining achievable targets that will help focus your work in the future. It is good to see that you are continuing your relationship with the local statutory bodies.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Ballymote is a busy commercial town that has many features which reflect its historical legacy. The restoration work at Ballymote Castle continues and this site will be a very positive attraction for the town. Both the R.C. Church and Church of Ireland are focal buildings that looked very well on the day of adjudication. The pastoral care centre looks well , but the old Church and graveyard needs and deserves some attention. The Railway Station with its attractive planting impressed again, although the back yard needs to be tided and weeded. The Schools all looked well on the day; with attractive flower beds noted at Corran College. The Fire Station needs its paint work refreshed and again it must be said that the cinema needs to be tided before it deteriorates further. It is good to see the Rock House Corner site has been developed and some of the old sheds opposite it could do with some cosmetic paint work. The main streets has many fine characteristics, although there are some plastic signs that could be replaced with more sympathetically designed signs. Many of the business premises in the town appear to have removed their regular flower features, this is a pity as this extra attention to detail would enhance the whole streetscape, although some attractive baskets and boxes were noted at Doddy's and Ross's, Gratten cleaners also caught the eye for all the right reasons. There is also a great variety of traditional and not so new premises in Lord Edward Street and O Connell Street and it is encouraging to see that many of the former business premises are being kept so well. Dwyers Butcher shop is an example with its original victuallers tiles. It is good to see that the previously unsightly premises in Cawley's yard have been knocked and hopefully will soon be appropriately replaced. The new filling station on the Sligo Road also looks very well.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The landscape features, paving and picnic areas in the Park

look well, as does the new gates and entrance on the Gurteen Road. Cut the grass around the young trees in the Park to give them a chance and show them off. The lovely bed and stone wall at the river on the Kenahan Road looked good with its example of effective planting, providing a touch of colour and content all year round. The flower bed, in its focal position on the Gurteen Road, needs to be replanted or cleared out. Similarly there is a bed at the corner of the national school that needs attention.

Try to get the very fine letter box at the entrance to the railway station repainted. Litter bins, street furnishing, old water pumps, should be painted and maintained. A standard or attractive colour throughout the town might be considered. The new tunnel at the railway station would benefit by some imaginative landscaping, but the other beds in this area look well.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The committee are aware of the benefits of enhancing the natural habitats within the town, as you have stated that many people are already enjoying the features in the Park. It is good to see that you are working closely with all the relevant public bodies. Make contact with a local expert or ENFO in relation to optimising this location. Try to involve your local schools, (who will be the future beneficiaries,) in your future plans. Some additional opportunities for development under this heading include hedge rows, nesting boxes, Bat Boxes, water/pond features and possibly a wildflower area. There is a wonderful collection of mature trees at the railway entrance to the Park that could be appropriately used. Carefully plan and design your nature signs with care, to avoid a proliferation of inappropriately made signs that may defeat the aim of enhancing the towns natural environment.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

There was litter evident throughout the town on the day of adjudication. In particular in the main streets, on the road at Corran College, at Marren Park, and in the Hillview Estate. It was good to see the barrel finally removed from the river at Wolfe Tonne Street, but there is still some other rubbish yet to be removed. Adequate and effective maintenance of litter bins also contribute to the marks in this section, as does your Litter Awareness Campaign. Try to involve all the local schools and business's in this campaign. The Committee and community has to stay on top of this problem.

### **TIDINESS**

The town presents a mixed impact under this heading. While strides are been made at individual sites there is still much room for improvement. Many individual sites and

properties throughout the town need to be tided or have their paint work refreshed. Some issues relating to this section have been raised in under other headings. I sympathise with your constant graffiti problem on the gates and walls on the road to Corran College. While some of the premises here have very effective screening gates, some properties need to be tided. On the day of adjudication many public houses had barrels stored on the footpath. One premises had them stacked three high using two parking spaces on the main street. I hope this is just a delivery day issue and that barrels are generally kept off the footpaths. As mentioned in previous reports there are still a number of shops in Teeling Street and on the corner of Lord Edward Street, displaying goods for sale on the pavement. This is both dangerous and unsightly and interferes with access for those with disabilities in your community. Once again it is important that all areas of the town are appropriately maintained and 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. It is good to see that you are making progress with the Tennis Court area and your recycling bins looked tidy again this year.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Once again many of the houses on the approach roads and in the town centre and developments were well maintained and nicely presented. Some lovely gardens, flower features, hedges, lawns and tidy boundary walls were also noted. However these homes highlight the houses that need to be painted, tided or their overall presentation improved. The new work at Marren Park will look very well when completed. The courtyard housing development looked very tidy and could be enhanced by a little landscape feature. Some obvious railings need to be repaired and repainted at a collection of houses on the way out to Hillview. The presentation of Hillview Estate continues to improve, bar the litter this year. The footpaths and wall mural look well and the trees are maturing nicely. Hopefully the large container in the estate will be removed once all the work is fully completed. The house opposite the entrance to Hillview deserves praise for maintaining the area outside their boundary wall. Cuan losa looked very tidy and the new houses opposite Loftus Hall also look well. The immediate entrance to the Castle Grove development needs to be tided, though the landscaping around the homes themselves looks very well.

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

Many of the approach roads streets and footpaths still need attention. Although some work had commenced on some footpaths in the town, ensure that others are kept weed

free. Some well faced hedges and tidy verges were noted on many of the roads. If you could tidy the verges a little past the 30 mile sign it would certainly add to the first impression of the town. The road surface was bad in Marren Park and in the parking areas in front of the Mart. An attractive stone wall and gate was noted on the road out from Wolfe Tone Street, this would look well if it was cleaned and tided a little. Similarly both entrances to the Park look well, but the area behind the gate on the Sligo side needs to be tided. The Street Lamps in the centre of the town enhance the streetscape and the new trees and grass verges on the Sligo Road will look very well when this work is fully completed. It is good to see that you are focusing some attention on the road to Coran College. Your enclosed "Ballymote strengths and weaknesses" document has highlighted some problem areas within the town and hopefully in conjunction with the local public bodies you will continue to work together towards an effective solution.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The committee is making progress and all the various ongoing developments can only enhance the town. It is good to see that local organisations are supportive. Work with residents associations and perhaps advertise your plans and issues as a means of drumming up support and highlighting your work and plans for the town. The committee should not be discouraged, your interest in the town and its environment are important, good luck with your future plans.