

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINAGORE**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-06-2000

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2000 | Mark Awarded 1999 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 35 | 33 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 25 | 24 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 30 | 28 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 21 | 18 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 26 | 26 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 12 | 12 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 15 | 15 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 25 | 22 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 196 | 185 |

Ballinagore, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballinagore is welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the third millennium. Thank you for your very comprehensive application, the details made interesting and admirable reading and the entire application was so well thought out as to make adjudication quite a simple matter. It is several years since this adjudicator has visited your village and it has to be said that the experience was one of very pleasant surprise and admiration at all that has been achieved for Ballinagore in a relatively short period of time. Neatly presented grass margins, stone walls, sporadic outbreaks of Oxeyedaisies, nicely landscaped shrubberies, well appointed buildings, the view of the river bank and the nature walk, excellent quality road surfaces, well managed hedgerows all add up to making one's visit to Ballinagore a memorable experience indeed, well done!

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The new 'Tidy Towns' building was noted, this is a grand achievement. The Post Office and adjoining buildings could be repainted soon to freshen their appearance. A co-ordinated colour scheme of muted, gentle pastel shades could be adopted for buildings in the village. Well done on work accomplished under this heading. 'Mahons' looks well also.

LANDSCAPING

This is one of your major strengths in the competition, the many stretches of well maintained grass verges and lawns are elegant in their simplicity. Young trees are maturing well and mature trees are quite stately. Your choice of shrubs for beds etc. is good in that you appear to have chosen for seasonal interest. The newly planted stretch on the Kilbeggan entrance will make a significant contribution to the overall appearance of this section of the village as they mature.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Another strong area in the competition. Your nature walk / riverside walk is a delight to experience. The adjudicator did not walk the stretch beyond the mill, however the stretch between the bridge and the mill was beautiful in its simplicity and naturalness. The wildlife appeal of the ducks on the river and indeed all flora and fauna including, of course, the stands of mature trees and ground herbage made the entire experience delightful. Has a habitat survey been undertaken? Maybe this will be a worthwhile project in future.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is excellent, well done! No doubt your volunteer work parties can take the credit for this. Litter bins also seem to be well placed. Do keep us informed of your litter management activities, we would be delighted to hear of them.

TIDINESS

The village has an overall ambience of tidiness. Derelict buildings are a problem, of course, but the committee is aware of this and know what actions are necessary. Hopefully this problem will be resolved over the next few years with the help of the County Council. As mentioned previously, there is an overall ambience of tidiness within the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most residential properties look well. A co-ordinated colour scheme is suggested for the residential properties in the village centre.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Well done on the stretches of stone wall on approach roads that have been cleared of excess growth and refurbished. The road surface of the Kilbeggan to Mullingar road is excellent. We look forward to the village centre having its wirescape ducted at some stage in the future. Most street furniture looks well.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Ballinagore is extremely favourable, it is a great pleasure to spend some time in your beautiful village. The highlight of the adjudicators visit was of course the riverside walk.