

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLYKEERAN**  
County : **WESTMEATH**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	25
The Built Environment	40	21	21
Landscaping	40	24	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	21	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	18
General Impression	10	5	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>156</b>

## **Ballykeeran, County Westmeath**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Ballykeeran is welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the third millennium. Thank you for your completed application and details of your plan. Do send us in more details of what you have achieved in the past year and what you want to have judged in the competition. Ballykeeran is located on a busy national primary route, the N55, and as a result is subject to noise and dust pollution. The village is not a safe place in which to walk. Some thought might be given to the creation of more footpaths and the development of additional amenity areas, particularly along the river bank.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The Duck and Dog public house looks particularly well but the carpark could be landscaped.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The southern entrance to the village looks well with its rose and shrub displays and neatly maintained verges at the phone box. The area around the nameplate at the northern entrance to the village could now be landscaped.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The small stream provides an opportunity to identify species present in this wetland habitats and the extensive stretches of hedgerow and mature trees also are important habitats which might be surveyed to identify protective steps necessary for conservation of wildlife.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control was quite good, well done. There was some litter near the speed limit sign on the northern entrance but this was not a serious problem.

### **TIDINESS**

Perhaps the outbuildings beside the speed limit signs on a side road could be planted with a climbing plant to soften their appearance. No doubt a large derelict residential property will be developed in due course. It is not too visible from the public road as it is partially screened by trees and shrubs. The base of the long grey wall across the road from the Dog and Duck carpark could be planted or the wall itself refurbished.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The stone residential property at the bend in the road is an important focal point in the village and is being very well maintained, well done. The loose stone wall behind the last noted house is an attractive development and other boundary walls in the immediate environs are well presented also. One across from the caravan park looks particularly well topped as it is by plants tumbling over the wall. The thatched cottage looks wonderful, however it probably needs to be re-whitewashed. A second thatched cottage is beautifully painted. Residential properties on the high road overlooking the village are superbly presented but again a little more attention to boundaries is necessary in some cases. The roadside shrubbery to the coloured thatched cottage is extensive and quite magnificent.

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

Some roadside edges are in need of refurbishment. Street furniture is generally well presented. The carpark (as noted above) could be 'softened' in its appearance by landscaping.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Ballykeeran is an attractive village but the speed at which traffic travels together with the lack of footpaths makes it a dangerous environment.