

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYMORE**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	29
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	29	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	14
Litter Control	40	24	22
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	185	178

Ballymore, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballymore is welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the third millennium. Thank you for your completed application. The purpose of the map each year is to show what work has been accomplished for that particular year of entry, so it is to your benefit to send in this map every year. You see the unique feature of your village as being historical, yet you have not elaborated on this. Perhaps you would care to do so for next year's presentation. It is a pity that the committee has not gained any practical assistance from the local community, don't be disheartened by this, you may need to consider a good public relations strategy. It would be hard to progress much further in the competition without forwarding details of your three to five year development plan and providing details of what has been accomplished each year. The adjudicator regrets that you were disappointed with last year's results.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The church looks especially well as does the graveyard. Cunninghams looks particularly well also and flower displays here are impressive. The handsome stone building (Rooneys) at the Mullingar end of the village makes a strong statement on entering from this approach road. The Community Hall looks really well and its landscaped areas and flower displays were much admired. The Health Centre and school are being well maintained.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaped greens on the entrance to the village from the Athlone approach road are beautiful as are those in the village centre, particularly at the church. Semi-mature and mature trees are handsome elements of the village also. Landscaped greens with stands of mature trees were nicely complemented by colourful flower displays in containers. Stretches of wire and post fencing should be planted with hedgerow.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your Tidy Towns Handbook contains some excellent ideas and advice on getting started in the competition under this heading. A habitat survey is an important first step.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was very good, an improvement on last year.

Some of the points made by last year's adjudicator are still relevant.

TIDINESS

The sprayed weeds around the County Westmeath Tourist Trail sign should be removed. A derelict site and a derelict property are problems under this heading, which whilst not focal points of the town, these problems need to be redressed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The display of red Geraniums on the white and pebble dashed residential property at the Mullingar end of the village is quite striking. The three Buddleia bushes in the garden of a house were in full bloom during adjudication, no doubt these attract a large number of butterflies and bees. Some consideration might be given to the development of a small park and children's play area on the expanse of green at the residential development at the Mullingar end of the village (housing estate). Green verges with semi-mature and mature trees to roadside areas of boundary walls of residential properties in the village gives this residential area an elegant ambience.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

A speed limit sign on the Mullingar entrance needs to be refurbished. No doubt there is a reason for the extensive stretch of traffic cones in the long grass on the Mullingar approach road. Well done on street furniture, all of which was well presented, particularly seating. A second speed limit sign (on the Moate road) needs to be repaired.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall and lasting impression of Ballymore is, of course, expansive stretches of green verge with stands of semi-mature and mature trees, all of which are being maintained beautifully. The village is attractive and everyone concerned with its presentation is to be commended.