

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYNACARGY**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	27
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	30	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	15
Litter Control	40	18	18
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	19	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	184	172

Ballynacargy, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballynacargy is welcome to the first Tidy Towns Competition of the third millennium. The village enjoys a magnificent setting on the Royal Canal and the gentle rise of the road which brings one over the canal bridge and allows a view of both the canal, its banks and the town is a wonderful visual amenity complemented by the excellent condition in which the bridge is being maintained, well done! Congratulations on the co-operation you are achieving from the community via a vis sponsorship. Your liaison with the local authority and FAS are also valuable and paying dividends. It is good to note that you have a development plan. In future years it will be necessary only to send in a copy of the matrix and a map depicting the location of projects that have been completed for the current year of application. It is also good to note that the community is taking advantage of its magnificent location on the Royal Canal. The completion of the slipway and the boat rally are activities that complement this natural heritage.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Well done on the painting of the Community Centre and Hall. The school is neatly presented. The church closes off the vista at the end of the main street quite well and should, of course, always be presented to the highest standard as it is an important focal point in the townscape. The church was looking somewhat weatherstained and could do with being repainted. The belfry and timber framed entrance to the church are handsome features which look quite new. The O'Conghaile premises is being considered for the shopfront award.

LANDSCAPING

Young trees along the main street are maturing well. The landscaped verge at the Mullingar entrance looks well. Landscaping at the bridge looked wonderful and even the flower of the Elder tree growing through the window apertures of the old canal building had a charm of their own.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Congratulations on the stocking of the canal with wild fowl, these were delightful to experience on adjudication. Refer to your Tidy Towns Handbook for further ideas under this heading.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was reasonably good overall. A particular weak spot was the environs of the 'Canal End' premises. Litter was also noted outside of Connellys and Munnellys. A light scattering of litter was noted in Tower View residential development.

TIDINESS

The major problem under this heading is, of course, your derelict building 'Kilmurrays'. Given the current economic climate it is hoped that this building will be redeveloped in the not too distant future. If this is unlikely to be the case then perhaps some 'masking' of the property and tidying of the surrounds could be undertaken as an interim measure.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the houses in the terrace near the bridge over the canal could do with painting, perhaps a co-ordinated colour scheme could be featured here. Residential properties on the Rathowen road look well, particularly the one on the left just before the nameplate. The Parochial House is a substantial property with some handsome architectural features which hopefully will be retained upon refurbishment. Many boundary walls along the Mullingar entrance need cleaning or painting. Many roadside boundary walls near Moynahan Park had been recently painted for adjudication, well done. (Those that need to be repainted are located closer to the Bunbrosna junction.) The new 'Tower View' residential development has been finished to a very high standard and it is excellent to note that the roadside stand of mature trees at its entrance have been left in situ with the entrance to the residential development built around it. The handsome two storey house located at the corner to the Community Centre and at the church had been recently painted and looks quite magnificent. The single and two storey properties leading to the harbour are quite charming in their presentation. Boundary walls to properties on the Longford road are also in need of cleaning or painting.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The entrance to the village from the Mullingar road is spoiled by the parking of heavy goods vehicles. A special parking space should be designated for these as their size and bulk spoil what would otherwise be an excellent view into the village from this approach road. The entrance to the town from the Rathowen road looks quite magnificent with its stands of semi-mature and mature trees on well maintained grass verges, well done. Street furniture looks well, particularly the black and gold water pumps. The loose natural stone wall under the growth along the right hand side of the road from the Bunbrosna junction should be revealed and refurbished if necessary. The Longford entrance with its neatly trimmed grass verges and stone wall is very pleasant.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Ballynacargy is one of a stately village with good wide streets and handsome buildings enjoying a magnificent location in a beautiful setting on the Royal Canal. The commitment of the community to the environment is evidenced in both the presentation of the canal and the care and maintenance to green areas. Congratulations again on the retention of the trees at the entrance to Tower View estate. Congratulations also on a substantial increase in marks this year.