

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYVAUGHAN**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	43
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	31	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	20	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	22
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	210	213

Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed entry form. It is a pity that you did not list the ten small projects from the CAAS report, as suggested in last year's report.

One of the main problems which the adjudicators encountered was traffic. On the day of adjudication the whole town seemed to be tied up in a gridlock. The stopping area at the tourist information office was not well respected. There was a car parked in it, as there was at the bus stop. Yellow line markings were being completely ignored. It is suggested that parking be allowed on one side of the street and that smaller parking areas be clearly marked. Perhaps a parking lot behind the building could be provided.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

On the whole most buildings looked well again this year. Unoccupied houses are always a problem. The Burin Exposure continues to be quite a feature, an impressive building with good landscaping. At the entrance to the town from Kinvarra, the beautiful stone walls have been demeaned by the indifferent capping of stone dust and cement slurry. Advice should be got from the DoELG or Conservation Volunteers on the correct way to cap these dry stone walls. The school looks well but would be much enhanced with tree planting, preferably indigenous plants. The Garda station opposite was good. Hylands Hotel looked very good and has an interesting façade but this is marred by the parking in front. The Flo Gas filling station looked well. Its present landscaping on the perimeter wall could be enhanced by the addition of more trees and shrubs. O Loclairn's pub has a very successful façade and adds considerably to ambience of the village.

LANDSCAPING

As in previous years the general impression of landscaping is very pleasant. As previously mentioned, the Burren Experience creates a very good impression on entering the village. Additional planting should be undertaken at the school and at the filling station. Indigenous trees and plants should be the preferred types. There was a very pleasant array of colourful planters and boxes which gave a holiday atmosphere throughout.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The bird hide which was recently constructed is very appropriate. It is suggested that a step be provided in order that children may avail of this very interesting attraction. The information board is an important feature. The work done in tackling the erosion at the weathercock and new pier is

satisfactory. The walkway down to the harbour is very pleasant

LITTER CONTROL

Considering the great number of visitors in the town on the day of adjudication, it was quite amazing how successful the control of litter was.

TIDINESS

There was a general air of tidiness in the town. Unfortunately, this was marred by the large number of signs.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential areas are all of a very high standard with most attractive floral displays. The trees in St Joseph's housing estate need attention as they are leaning. It should be fairly simple to straighten them up. It is important to do this as otherwise they will give a very untidy and unkempt appearance.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road structure is well maintained but as pointed out in Built Environment above, there are traffic problems which should be attended to, probably through consultation with the County Council.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Apart from the chaotic traffic the village looked very well on adjudication day. It had the air of a holiday resort, a place where every one was enjoying themselves.