

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BAILE MHIC IRE\BAILE BHUIRNE**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	32
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	30	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	22	24
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	22	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>187</b>

## **Baile Mhic Ire / Baile Bhuirne, COUNTY** **CORK**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Reference is made in your application to the sheer length of street frontage involved in your presentation, given the nature of the twin villages. Perhaps you could consider entering as separate entities, while still maintaining a close working relationship. Another alternative would be to create incidents / features along this long stretch of road to create interest as one passes through. The adjudicator was pleased to note your aspirations in regard to your previous three year plan had all been realised and, with any luck and a lot of hard work, the same will be true of your new plan. The acquisition of the new street sweeper must make life an awful lot easier!

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Most buildings in both villages were reasonably well maintained on the day, although those in Baile Bhuirne were maintained to a higher standard. Perhaps the area to the front of Shiopa Uí Cheallaig could be resurfaced. The Mills Inn looked well with beautifully maintained grounds – however its sign could be painted up before next year's competition. The adjacent thatched Siopa Mhuilinn was freshly whitewashed with colourful hanging baskets. The health centre was quite fresh and Colaiste Gobnait looked fine. Its landscaping was admired – perhaps you could consider screening the tank more successfully. In Baile Mhic Ire the church is quite charming – perhaps some landscaping could be considered at the boundary in this location. Centra was quite fresh and Kelleher's was fine. Weir's Chemist could be freshened before next year's competition and the gable wall to the adjacent building appeared quite grubby. Both Tuama's Bar and Spar were very fresh as was the Post Office. O'Conaill's and the Quilt Centre could be freshened up before next year's competition. Both Udarás na Gaeltachta industrial estates contribute well to this category of the competition in terms of their presentation in both villages.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The standard in this category of the competition was extremely good. The flower filled cart in front of Siopa Mhuilinn looked most attractive. A nicely planted bed at the junction of the Killarney Road looked well. New trees had been planted in front of the national school – however some appeared to have been damaged. The grotto and its water feature looked as well as ever and the marvelous landscaping to St. Gobnait's shrine looked extremely well. Flowers were also noted in a cart on the Cork Road – the adjacent advertising sign was quite flaky in contrast. The landscaped feature at the millennium stone looked most attractive.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The maps in both villages indicating the many fascinating walks that are available to the visitor are a most beneficial asset to the community – do ensure that their canopies are maintained as a flaky appearance would be most unfortunate. The local rookery was very vocal on the day!

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The standard of litter control was generally reasonable on the day. However, quite a lot was evident outside the Esso station and more at the car park area to St. Gobnait's shrine.

## **TIDINESS**

Grubby piers to the college between the two villages created a bad impression. Rusty tin roofs to out buildings should be freshly painted in their traditional red colour – one in particular adjacent to a cottage in poor condition on the Cork Road looked unfortunate. Do discourage the practice of advertising hoardings as they can give a very cluttered appearance to the roadsides. The forecourt area to the car park to St. Gobnait's shrine appeared extremely weedy on the day.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Houses were generally presented to a reasonable standard on adjudication day. A well landscaped house and grounds by Udarás na Gaeltachta in Baile Bhuirne was admired. The boundary wall with nameplate to the housing estate near the Abbey Hotel was extremely grubby. Bruach an Tsuláin – a new housing estate looked extremely well in its pastel shades and well landscaped area with new trees to the front. The charming cottages near Kelleher's Garage were admired but will need some attention before next year's competition. A street house with two tree tubs either side of the door in Baile Mhic Ire was admired as was an attractive garden extending over the stone boundary wall of a bungalow in its central location between the two villages.

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

The standard in this category of the competition could have been better on the day – however, the new footpath for residents of the Killarney Road was under way on adjudication day which may have contributed to the problem. The new stone walling was admired in this location and considering ongoing work the road was presented to a reasonable standard. Signage however was slightly grubby and rusty – this was presumably due to ongoing roadworks. On the Cork Road directional signs were also quite rusty. The road to St. Gubnait's shrine was in bad condition – however the attractive stream to the side of the road was admired.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Baile Mhic Ire / Baile Bhuirne are attractive twin villages in the Cork Gaeltacht. They are located in magnificent scenery and

have the benefit of some marvelous natural features. A good use of the Irish language was evident through a consistency in design of the signage – this extended to street names, riverside identification etc.