

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINCOLLIG**
County : **CORK**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 11-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	32
The Built Environment	40	30	25
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	24	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	211	196

BALLINCOLLIG, COUNTY CORK

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Many thanks for your very thorough submission which was most useful on the day. The map clearly outlined the areas which had been improved upon over the last year. The presence of a Local County Council office must be useful in terms of the high level of support you have garnered from them. The adjudicator was pleased to note that ungrounding of cables has commenced. It was also interesting to observe that both guide dogs and the visually impaired train here and hence the use of special paving finishes at footpath junctions. The encouragement of bi-lingual signage is apparent. The competitions in relation to each category of your tidy town's presentation are certainly paying off. The tidy towns section of the parish website must provide great interest in Ballincollig. The adjudicator noted your problems in relation to absentee landlords and traffic. Hopefully these issues will resolve themselves in the not to distant future.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the buildings along the very long Main Street and in the shopping centers were presented to a high standard, although there were minor issues to be resolved such as the Market Gate which appeared to be abandoned and one or two grubby signs. Projecting plastic signs should also be discouraged. Many of the buildings sported cheerful window boxes and hanging baskets. The trees planted along Main Street contribute greatly to this aspect of the town's presentation. The Oriel Hotel and its landscaping to the front were presented to a high standard. This is an attractive combination of stone wall with flowers overhanging the neatly cut grassy verge.

LANDSCAPING

The new interventions to the east side of the town looked marvelous – the limestone sculpture and roundabout filled with roses and trees! The landscaped area opposite was also well maintained. The planting at the East Gate comprising of the curved, ramped stone wall with railing and boxes filled with petunias to the front looked quite dramatic. The planting at the junction of Main Street and the Square is coming along very nicely. In terms of further enhancement in this category, perhaps some planting and trees might soften the rather harsh appearance of Ballincollig Shopping Centre car park.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Regional Park with its watersides, trees and historic buildings is a wonderful asset so close to the town center. Hopefully your signage in relation to wildlife will be place for next year's competition – the adjudicator noted your problems

in this regard. The proposed Slí na Sláinte route should also be a wonderful initiative for the town.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard in this category of the competition was quite good although there were one or two problem areas. A light scattering was evident along the Main Street, along the Killarney Road and by the phone box beyond the Statioil Station.

TIDINESS

The apparently abandoned car showrooms with its extremely grubby boundary wall and weedy forecourt area on the Cork side of the town creates a bad impression at this entrance to Ballincollig. At the other end of the town perhaps the concrete post and wire fence to the rugby club (which looks quite unfortunate) could be replaced with a stone wall or hedging of an indigenous variety such as beech or hawthorn. Two rather grubby out buildings on the Killarney approach should be re-whitewashed before next year's competition.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category of the competition was very good – with both mature existing estates and, in particular, new estates contributing well to this category. Of particular note were Manor Hill Estate, Fr. Sexton Park and the houses opposite with their traditional cottage hedging to the front, Muskerry Estate and Coolroe Heights with its neatly cut grass, nameplate and surrounding permanent planting. The high standard of landscaping to new estates is quite magnificent.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads, the Main Street and rear areas were all presented to a high standard on adjudication day. The magnificent nameplates at each end of the village were admired and look extremely welcoming. The roundabout at the west end of the village could perhaps be developed along the lines of that at the east end which looked truly marvelous on the day.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballincollig is a busy vibrant town with much through traffic. It continues to improve at a steady pace and there is evidence of much enthusiasm from its residents in relation to its appearance.