

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLINEEN-ENNISKEANE**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	30	25
Landscaping	40	30	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	21	21
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	22
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>176</b>

## **Ballineen / Enniskeane, County Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Many thanks for your five year work programme, many of the projects seemed logical and worthwhile. As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, it is most important that you put a timescale against the achievement of these objectives. The restoration of the Station House and its use as a heritage center, library and gym is a most worthwhile project, as indeed is the upgrading of the playground. Do ensure that any street lighting you introduce is in keeping with the character of the villages. As mentioned in last year's report, if you are finding the sheer size of the area covered a problem, why not enter the competition as two separate villages? You can obviously still work very closely together none the less.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The standard of premises in Enniskeane were to of a somewhat higher standard than those of Ballineen. In Enniskeane, the Dairy Services building was quite fresh, as was Quickpick and the Village Inn. The fine stone church on the hill with its graveyard to the front was admired, as was the extremely fresh school with its attractive grounds. The creeper clad public lavatories was well presented. In terms of the timber yard, perhaps a railing could be introduced to the top of the concrete wall (its coping was missing in places) on the Clonakilty Road. This boundary was in sharp contrast to the car parking area on the main street with its planting and stone boundary wall. The standard of commercial premises in Ballineen was somewhat inconsistent – some were extremely fresh and others looked quite neglected. Both the Garda Station and the Post Office will need to be freshened up before next year's competition. Both Centras in each village were extremely fresh, as were the dry cleaners and Dessy's Bar in Ballineen. There is a good use of the Irish language in both villages.

### **LANDSCAPING**

There is obviously great enthusiasm for this aspect of the competition! Agricultural machinery displays at entrance points to the villages and strategic spots in each were greatly admired. The planted beds set into the grassy banks on the Dunmanway Road looked well – perhaps you could consider replacing the concrete wall with dry stone walling instead. Floral displays were apparent on many commercial premises, including the boundary wall to Bandon Co-Op. The attractive landscaping by the abandoned cottages on this road was greatly admired, as were the new trees and freshly painted traditional plough at the Macroom junction.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Your plans in relation to providing information boards along the riverside walk are to be commended, as indeed are your weed control proposals, avoiding the use of chemicals.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good. A minor outbreak was apparent on the Bandon Road.

## **TIDINESS**

There were a number of problem areas under this heading. The abandoned houses on the Bandon Road had been freshly painted but the adjacent ones looked quite neglected in sharp contrast to the beautifully landscaped area to the front. The out buildings on the edge of Ballineen on the Dunmanway Road will need to be re-whitewashed before next year's competition – some more sheds on the opposite side of the road looked quite neglected. But as work was being carried out to the adjacent house, it is to be hoped that these will be improved upon also. A broken sign to Shorten's Garage should be replaced and perhaps some landscaping could be considered to the forecourt area.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The standard in this category of the competition was quite good. The very fresh houses with projecting windows at first floor level on the Clonakilty Road close to the junction with Main Street looked extremely colourful and were greatly admired, as indeed were the charming cottages on Main Street with their recessed entrances. The houses between the two villages were generally fine – the bungalows on this road contributed well in this category of the competition. The bright pink house with purple trims in Ballineen, with its abundant displays of hanging baskets looked most cheerful on a rainy adjudication day. A number of the houses on the Dunmanway Road would benefit from a more colourful treatment. One that looked quite neglected looked unfortunate – a planning notice, presumably, suggests improvements to this in the not too distant future.

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

It is essential that you try to achieve a natural look to the approach roads and avoid the problem of them appearing to be neglected. The colourful displays on each approach were admired, but the standard in this category could have been better. The old traditional square sign on the Bandon Road was admired, but the verges appeared quite rough beyond the Bandon Co-Op. On the Dunmanway Road the grass had been cut at the welcome sign but the rest appeared quite wild. The Macroom Road was quite overgrown. In terms of signage, this could also have been improved upon. The children crossing sign in Enniskeane appeared quite grubby, as did the speed limit signs between the two villages. Nameplates on approach roads are obviously in the process of being replaced. The speed limit signs on the Dunmanway Road and the welcome sign on the Bandon Road both

appeared quite grubby. It is appreciated that the volume of traffic causes problems in this regard – hence vigilance is all the more essential!

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The twin villages of Ballineen and Enniskeane in their prime location on the Bandon River and on the main Bandon to Dunmanway Road continue to progress steadily in the competition.