

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINSPITTLE**
County : **CORK**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	24
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	28	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	30	25
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	188	175

Ballinspittle, County Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballinspittle's Urban and Village Renewal Programme makes very interesting reading. It was disappointing to note that the centerpiece had not been completed in the millennium year, hopefully, if this monument is implemented, it will be in keeping with the character of the village. Your plans in relation to improvements such as the stone facing of the wall opposite the church, cleaning and repair of walls on approach roads and replacement of footpaths are all to be highly commended. As mentioned in last year's report you should set a timescale against these proposals, in order that both you and the judges can gauge how you are progressing in relation to same.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Both public and commercial premises were reasonably well maintained on the day. The school looked fine and its boundary wall was extremely fresh. Perhaps you could consider screening the oil tank by means of a trellis and creeper. The play school unfortunately looked quite shabby. The Garda Station was fine but its boundary wall sported green mould. The church and grounds were well maintained and Nash's Pub looked quite charming despite rusty staining below its projecting sign. Centra looked quite fresh with its window boxes, which had yet to come into their own. The stone wall to the GAA grounds was admired – perhaps the adjacent hall and forecourt area could be softened by means of landscaping.

LANDSCAPING

This is an aspect of the competition in which the village truly excels. The attractive grassy banked area with flowers to semi detached houses opposite the school looked quite charming. The hanging basket stands in the vicinity of the bridge were admired. The Junction at the grotto with its shrubs and flowers, including easter lilies, looked quite magnificent and the grotto itself was as beautifully maintained as ever – the viewing area opposite looked well with manicured grass leading to a "meadow" effect behind.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The riverside area was well maintained. Ballinspittle is well catered for in this category of the competition with its abundance of mature trees and hedgerows. The proposed canal side walk, as indicated on your site plan should be a marvelous asset in this regard. Perhaps you could incorporate a map and signage pointing out areas of local wildlife interest. The local school children and local experts could also get involved.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good, with only the odd outbreak occurring in the vicinity of the church.

TIDINESS

The toilets and notice to the gable opposite the grotto were in quite bad condition. This is most unfortunate as it is in sharp contrast to the magnificent upkeep of the grotto itself. This appears to have been a problem for a number of years.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Both individual houses and estates were well cared for on the day. It was noted that a number of new developments are on stream such as Spittle Fields and Church View hopefully they will be in keeping with the village's character. Árus Scoile B&B looked quite charming in stone. There were a number of attractive gardens, such as one on the Bandon Road with michaelmas daisies spilling over its boundary wall and an adjacent bungalow. A pretty cottage garden with lupins and irises was also admired.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The standard in this category of the competition was somewhat inconsistent. The Garretstown Road was reasonably well kept, while the Bandon Road was very overgrown, although the wild roses, ferns, honeysuckle and foxgloves in the hedgerows were admired. The road to the grotto was in slightly better condition, although also overgrown. The Kilbrittain Road was fine and its hollyhocks and ferns were admired. Signage could have been in better condition – that to the Kilbrittain Road was rather grubby, as was that on the Garretstown Road. The directional signs on the Garretstown Road were also in bad condition, as were those at the village center – both appeared quite grubby and should be washed down. The children crossing sign adjacent to the school was mouldy and rather flaky.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballinspittle is an attractive busy little village. Pride is obviously being shown by residents in its appearance and character. It is making steady progress in the competition – congratulations on your significant increase in marks.