

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINASLOE**
County : **GALWAY**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	30	26
Landscaping	40	33	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	20	24
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	24	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	210	200

Ballinasloe, County Galway

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballinasloe has an overall integrated plan that will bear fruit in the long term. A determined focus on litter control and maintenance of completed projects to date will showcase its natural amenities to their best advantage.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The area around St Michael's Square looks attractive and will indeed be a focal point for the town and the addition of the sculpture will be a fine feature when in situ. The Urban District Council building is a credit to the town and the standard of commercial property is improving. At the Public Toilets, the hanging baskets looked well but the premises had windows broken and the internal area in both the men's and ladies appeared under attended and lacked supplies. Some tired buildings detracted from Dunlo Street with old petrol pumps and worn out signage been in evidence.

LANDSCAPING

Ballinasloe is a riot of colour and there is intelligence, sensitivity and artistry in the overall design and positioning of trees, flower beds and planting. In particular the planting at the intersection between Bridge Street and Sli na hAbhann looked wonderful as did the roses near the UDC building. The Famine Memorial Park is superb and has been photographed and entered into the Landscaping award category and is a credit to all concerned. Some attention does need to be paid to maintenance in that weed control at the base of young trees in St Michael's square could be improved and weeds were also beginning to build up on the steps at the "bandstand" area of the square.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The new marina with its ramped paths and wheelchair accessible toilet is an enhancement of this natural environment and a well-utilised asset of the town. Young families were down at the marina admiring the boats moored there. The plan to provide a walkway from the new Marina to Pollboy bog will be a welcome new development also.

LITTER CONTROL

Ballinasloe Tidy Towns committee have gone to great lengths to try and get the message across about keeping the town tidy and they are to be commended for their continuing effort to enhance the area. In the main, residential and commercial areas were litter free.

The adjudication was again undertaken on a Sunday and regrettably litter was in evidence particularly in and around

St Michaels Square where some of the litterbins were very full. In particular, lots of "Supermacs" bags were in evidence around the square. Small amounts of litter were also thrown under the wall at the entrance to the UDC building and also at the recycling centre behind the UDC building.

TIDINESS

Some areas appeared a little unkempt i.e. weeds around young trees at St Michaels Square, Public toilets not well maintained internally and some properties on Dunlo street looking untidy. However, overall the town was tidy and cheerful looking.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

All estates were well presented. The Pines estate was particularly well maintained with all front gardens/boundary walls and houses themselves looking in pristine condition.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads are very good and create an attractive welcoming impression of the town.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballinasloe is doing a wonderful job particularly in the area of paving, landscaping and enhancing of natural amenities. There is an obvious pride in the appearance of the town that is to be commended. Relentless consistent pursuit of the litter issue would be an important contribution to civic enhancement. The local authority and citizens of Ballinasloe are very progressive and continue to go from strength to strength.