

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLACOLLA**
County : **LAOIS**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 04-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	42
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	36	36
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	248	247

Ballacolla, Co. Laois

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballacolla looked magnificent on first adjudication. The Durrow approach road was presented to the highest standard possible and is a credit to those concerned. Thank you for the complementary book "History of Agaboe Parish", it makes interesting reading. It is a fine achievement for the community to have its history documented for future generations. Congratulations on achieving so many of your objectives detailed in your 1997 plan. It is good to keep a photographic record of your work. Do try to compile a list of 'before' and 'after' photographs. Congratulations on winning the Bronze Medal in last year's competition. The new signs look stately. The community is to be congratulated on maintaining a very high standard throughout the year, well done!

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Garda Station looks well. The roadside boundary wall of the school across the road may need some attention soon. The view of the rear façade of the school and adjoining murals is impressive for a back area. The location of the recycling point is good. Most buildings are well presented and the Hawthorn, McDermot's, Katie's Corner and Caoch O'Learys were all admired.

LANDSCAPING

The water feature at the crossroads is a little disappointing. There were scraps of litter in the water on the day of adjudication together with algae. The fountain itself appears not to be working. This was a little disappointing.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The school grounds, sports grounds, wildlife park and graveyard are all presented to the highest standard. We would be interested to hear of any project undertaken to increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife together with details of the wildlife of the area (since the development of the wildlife park). The wildlife park offers a peaceful oasis away from the distant noise of rumbling traffic. Ballacolla is being considered for the wildlife award. Perhaps you could take the wildlife sanctuary a stage further and make it wheelchair accessible.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was very strong during our visit. How do you achieve this standard? Send in details with next year's submission, it could earn extra marks.

TIDINESS

No doubt the problems posed by derelict properties will

soon be resolved, well done on steps taken to date. There are no other major problems under this heading.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most residential properties are nicely presented and there are some admirable gardens. Remind householders to be cognisant of the presentation of their roadside boundaries and curtilage areas in general.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

It is refreshing to see the excellent signposting of the village. Do keep us informed as to when your service cables might be ducted and more attractive street lighting put in place to replace the service poles. Street furniture looked well.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballacolla is presented to a very high standard and is a pleasure to adjudicate. Congratulations on maintenance. We look forward to seeing the fountain functional again.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (04/08/01)

The meticulous maintenance of Ballacolla village is very evident on approach. The extent of the beech hedge planting is very impressive and this will provide a lovely sight in time. Looking at the neatly trimmed roadside hedges on approach roads consideration has to be given to the debate on neatness versus natural growth habit, particularly in light of the advice and legislation on conservation and wild life relating to hedgerows. The good quality stone walls are a strong feature and the walls to either side of the Garda station are notable. The school grounds and GAA area were looking well. From the appearance of the picnic tables behind the school on the green a party seems to have taken place last night.