

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLINODE**  
County : **MONAGHAN**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	29
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	13
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>200</b>

## **Ballinode, County Monaghan**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The map enclosed with the application form was very useful, thank you. An overall plan would be most helpful in which all goals could be outlined. A time scale identifying when each action will be completed. Regular reviews would ensure an ongoing spirit of development for the village.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The building portfolio of Ballinode is very varied. The 18<sup>th</sup> century bridge is very significant as is the Church of Ireland. The thatched cottage is interesting. The commercial premises of the haulage company is unfinished and the retention of the roadside hedge and wall at that point is very wise. The railings opposite this premises would benefit from painting. The wall surrounding the pump could also do with painting. The ruined building behind the post office needs attention. Also the building opposite the river at the bridge at the start of the Monaghan road is dilapidated and hopefully a solution will emerge for this. Maggie's bar is well presented. There is an array of very fine housing which are well maintained and the shops are in good condition.

### **LANDSCAPING**

There are lovely beech and ash trees at the Church of Ireland. This makes one see the value of such mature trees in a village. These were planted by previous generations who could never have hoped to see them come to maturity. We owe it to future generations to do likewise and to plant trees such as beech, ash, lime and chestnut rather than the more ornamental smaller trees. The green is well tended by the river but could do with some rejuvenation to give a more interesting picture. The giant Hogweed which is growing by the riverbank may cause harm to those sensitivity to it. Individual gardens and containerised plantings contribute greatly to the appearances of the village and credit is due to homeowners and business premises alike for this. The ivy clad buildings near the village store are attractive.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The river seems the most obvious opportunity to appreciate the wildlife of the area. A riverside walk seems appropriate if this was possible to achieve. The Quiglough lake was noted for its possibilities. While there is a pleasant walk from the road to the lake, access to lakeside is restricted and consideration should be given to this issue.

### **LITTER CONTROL**

Overall there was a good level of litter control throughout the village. However there was some litter spotted at various points in particular the area of the sports courts.

Litter was also at the laneway behind the post office and at the river. Constant vigilance and the identification of vulnerable sites will help progress in this regard.

## **TIDINESS**

There is a generally a good level of tidiness in the village. As was mentioned last year, wire fences are in need of attention. The area to the road frontage of the Sports Courts is untidy. Weedkiller has been put at the base of the fence but the whole area needs attention. It may be appropriate to remove roadside fence and replace with a low stone wall. The welcome sign coming from the Tydavnet side needs a little attention as does its surrounds.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Individual houses are well tended and this gives a very pleasant image to the village. The little estate at Cappog was well presented. Houses on approach roads also contributed to the scene pleasantly.

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

Approach roads are attractive. The natural vegetation is attractive and hold a rich flora. Getting the balance between allowing nature having its own way and cutting back to neatness is difficult to decide upon.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

This is a lovely village with a unique character provided by the river, river bridge, church and mature trees. There is scope to focus on these and to use the rest of the village assets to complement these features. There is good scope for progress. When the haulage site is complete, and derelict buildings are attained to, a major change will follow.