

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYCOMMON**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	30
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	20	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	18
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	17	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	22
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	183	177

Ballycommon, North Tipperary

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The Ballycommon Tidy Towns Committee is an active body as evidenced by the documentation submitted with your entry form. It is encouraging to note that you draw together the following organisations in an effort to achieve your objectives:- Muintir na Tire, Lough Derg Yacht Club, Lough Derg Boat Club, the Badminton Club, Nenagh Ormond Anglers, An Taisce, the Local National School and most importantly of all, the local businesses and residents. It was also noted that you have a FAS scheme in operation. The information received on work undertaken during the year was concise and your plans for the future would seem to be achievable. It was good to note that part of these plans include a strategy to maintain what has already been put in place. We would suggest that as well as this plan that a work programme should also be drawn up with targets, time frame and action items specified.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The most prominent building in Ballycommon, The Thatch, was looking well and it was noted that the lanterns at the entrance to the car park had been refurbished. The Texaco station opposite was neat and tidy, except for an old faded Calor Kosangas sign on the front wall. The Fleur de Lys Hair Salon and Maryville B & B were well presented. The Munitir na Tire Hall is very stark and would benefit from the planting of some creepers to soften the building – also, the outer wall needed repainting. Your work on stone walls in and around the village was noted. At Hanly's Woollen Mills in Ballyartella (some way from Ballycommon) this building (which houses a Visitor Centre and Shop) was neat and tidy with nicely landscaped grounds.

LANDSCAPING

There is a need (as mentioned in last year's report) to landscape the public areas in the village to a greater extent. Trees planted here such as chestnut, sycamore, oak or lime would mature gracefully and provide a legacy for future generations. Also, such planting would define and integrate the whole village to a greater extent and lessen the emphasis on the "Thatch". Of course, the Thatch is a good resource for the village and the owners here are contributing to your efforts by landscaping their carpark and entrance to a high standard. In regard to planting of flowers for colour, permanent planting would be preferable than high maintenance tubs and containers. At Ballyartella, the green area and tree planting was admired.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Sli Eala walk, and your continuing work on this is a

major achievement under this category.

LITTER CONTROL

Except for a small sprinkling of litter on the approach roads, Ballycommon was litter free on the day of adjudication.

TIDINESS

The village was mostly neat and tidy throughout. However at the Ballyartella bridge and the car park, weeds were sprayed, without clearing the area of same first thus leaving a considerable amount of unsightly brown debris. Weeds must be disposed of before spraying takes place.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private houses in and around Ballycommon were mostly contributing to your efforts. It must be remembered that surrounding walls should also be painted as well as the houses themselves and set back areas must be maintained.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Some of the roads had been resurfaced and verges left in quite a rough condition. A couple of areas in the village itself were also unacceptable in this regard. Your Committee should contact the County Council in regard to these areas.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballycommon improves every year and with more attention to detail throughout, the village should progress further in the Competition. We look forward to seeing your future achievements.