

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYKEERAN**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	40	22	21
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	18
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	162	161

Ballykeeran, Co. Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballykeeran has a major problem in that the bridge linking the southern and northern village entities is not suited to the high level of goods vehicles which pass through. In the adjudicators view and experience using the bridge is at best uncomfortable, and at worst positively dangerous. Outside of the bridge it is recommended that the committee concentrate on more immediately achievable Tidy Town objectives.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the village buildings are set along the minor roads which converge at the bridge. Along these roads are a number of delightful houses including two thatched cottages attractively decorated with wild flower and roses. The most obvious buildings are the houses on the bridge and the Dog and Duck public house. Both look well, but the car park and back of the Dog and Duck could do with screening.

LANDSCAPING

There is a fine amenity area just to the south of the village which is furnished with litter bin, (full) and phone box. Verges on the southern side have been trimmed but on the northern side there was considerable cut grass which had not been cleared.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Ballykeeran has exceptional opportunities to exploit its wildlife and natural amenities associated with the through running stream and the shores of the inner lakes of Lough Ree. In identifying projects seek the advice of ENFO - a public information service established by the Minister for the Environment and Local Government or contact your area wildlife ranger.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was not a problem with the exception of better servicing of the refuse bin on the Athlone road amenity.

TIDINESS

A wall was broken to the left of the bridge on the Athlone side, and generally, the footpath along the wall opposite the Dog and Duck could be improved. There was a large metal disc lying against the bridge wall. The derelict building on the Athlone side of the bridge is not that noticeable due to the narrow bridge but is never the less a negative contributor to the village environment.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential buildings around the village vary from the old and relatively small to large and new constructions. These are well presented and in some cases have delightful gardens.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Apart from the bridge about which comment has already been made, the roads around and through the village are in good condition. Better surfaces on rough paths would help presentation. The caravan park has a good appearance of neatness with nicely trimmed lawns and camping areas.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballykeeran is an attractive village which needs support in overcoming the traffic problems created by users who make no contribution to the social or economic life of the community. It has considerable potential to develop through its lakeside location