

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYNACARGY**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	30
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	17	18
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	186	184

Ballynacargy, Co. Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Fantastic work has been carried out in your very successful attempt to renovate the canal area. Congratulations to all concerned. Under future plans, you intend to develop this space further and I wish you all the best, in having your plans implemented. In the meantime, a more short-term development could be the renovation of the area surrounding the stream, next to the canal bridge. Behind the shrubs, there are some beautiful tiered stone ledges on the bank of the stream, which are very overgrown at present. You might consider weeding out this space to create a seating area next to the stream.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Within the village, buildings are of a high standard. The church looks extremely well after the recent paintwork. Well done to everyone involved. The wooden belfry and entrance area is quite unique and very attractive. The young trees are starting to take root and the grounds are being well cared for. Next door, the Community Centre looks very well. O'Conghaile's pub on the main street, has a magnificent stone facade, well maintained paintwork and is beautifully adorned with flower boxes and hanging baskets. Murtagh's pub is also very attractive with its colourful floral displays. Both Penrose's and Halligan's shops are well looked after with their clean, tidy shop fronts. The school on the Rathowen road is very well presented and the yard is clean and tidy. The Health Centre on the Castletown Geoghegan road is well maintained but the garden needs some attention. The signs over Munnelly's and Connolly's need to be touched up.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaped area around the canal looks magnificent with its well maintained grass areas, beautiful shrubberies and slowly maturing trees. There is a weed problem on the paths, and remember to remove grass cuttings. The stream running adjacent to the canal is very overgrown and needs to be cut back. You might consider putting in more picnic benches in this area. The canal lock is nicely painted and being well cared for. On the Mullingar approach road, the landscaped verge is very weedy and untidy and needs some work.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The derelict stone building on the banks of the canal looks amazing with the trees and plant growth almost completely engulfing it. As it has been allowed to develop naturally, it provides a habitat for the indigenous wildlife of the area and fits into its surroundings very well. The ducks that were introduced onto the canal are a lovely idea and provide a great source of interest for the passer-by.

LITTER CONTROL

Within the village, litter control has greatly improved and is no longer a problem. There was evidence of litter on the green areas around the canal and at the canal slipway however. One of the bins here

needed to be emptied, but bins are plentiful and unobtrusive throughout the village. A lot of rubbish had collected at a tunnel grate in the stream. It is very important to enlist the help of children and increase awareness, in tackling litter problems.

TIDINESS

It is good to note the presence of recycling bins on the Mullingar entrance. The path in the village green on the main street needs to be weeded and the pump could be repainted. Weeds are also evident along some kerbs on the main street. At the canal there is a discarded pallet and some bricks which should be removed. The derelict building on the Rathowen road is somewhat of an eyesore.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Housing standards are quite high. Residences on the Mullingar approach are well maintained, as are those on the Castletown Geoghegan road. There is a mix of housing on Harbour Street. Some houses are very bright and colourful, while others are a little run-down and need some paint work. On the main street next to the garage, there is a beautifully maintained house decorated with colourful window boxes. The house and garden next to the Community Centre is similarly very attractive.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach from Mullingar is very good with well cut grass verges and nicely maturing trees. The verges on the Castletown Geoghegan approach need more attention and the village nameplate is a little obscured. The Longford road has well maintained verges but the path needs to be weeded. There is a beautiful tree-lined approach from Rathowen but the green area on the housing estate opposite the school needs to be cut. The nameplate from this approach also needs to be cleaned.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression of Ballynacargy is very good. The harbour area is the most striking feature of the village and I look forward to seeing how it develops. The main street is clean and tidy and has some lovely shop fronts. The church, as the village's focal point, looks very well. Well done to everyone involved in the upkeep of the village.