

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLON**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	32
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	211	206

BALLON

CARLOW

REF 7017

DATE 21/06/02

MARK 211

DEVELOPMENT 35

BUILT 28

LANDSC APING 28

WILDLIFE 19

LITTER 30

TIDINESS 13

RESIDENTIAL 23

ROADS 28

GENERAL 7

Ballon, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Thank you for the material supplied with the application form. The map was very helpful in locating all features. The plan that has been set out is both clear and concise. The idea of having this on a website is excellent. As changes occur these can be notified on the website. The website will also be very interesting for people with Ballon connections abroad or even in Dublin. The committee can visit the website and this could be an approach that would interest young people and encourage them to participate in activities. The projects that have been identified are all very worthwhile and hopefully progress will proceed according to schedule.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The hall, credit union building and stone building all together look well. On the main road the range of commercial buildings is varied as is the upkeep. Some of these premises need upgrading, painting and decorating. Material on display outside premises often gives an untidy

appearance. The Church, parochial residence and cemetery are well cared for. The Attractive rocks used for village nameplates and for the parochial residence are very good. The millennium monument is unique and will ensure a strong impact will endure. The Garda station is an attractive building with its unusual tower. The grotto is mentioned as one of the projects intended and this will be welcome as it has an unique design.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping at Maple Lawn is very well done and has matured well. The willow tree is suffering disease - like many willows in the country due to the wet early summer. The grass care is admirable. Containers through the village are varied in type. The plants are slow to make impact this year. The shrub bank - where it is intended to build a low stone wall as front is an excellent idea. The slope is quite steep and it is difficult to retain the soil. The trees along the roadside opposite the school have developed well and the choice of tree, clothed to the ground with branches has paid off very well. The lime trees behind the millennium monument are growing well. Individual gardens contribute greatly to the overall landscape of the village.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river offers interesting possibilities in this regard. Projects that help people appreciate the natural environment in our surrounds are especially important. This is so important for the children of the area so that a similar heritage of environmental knowledge can be passed to future generations. Every locality has its own particular interests. The website could be very useful in this respect as various seasonal feature could be portrayed.

LITTER CONTROL

There is a good level of litter control in the village. Some small amounts of litter were observed. With the volume of passing traffic it is likely that some litter results from this source.

TIDINESS

Recycling facilities are helpful to focus peoples minds on the need to have a tidy neat and orderly environment. The displays of signs and produce at some business premises is unhelpful to tidiness. The work at the Oaks building development needs to be finished off well and in keeping with the village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

As stated above, the Maple lawn area is very well cared for and gives a lovely impression along the roadside. The new Oaks development is taking a long time to complete. Many of the houses are taking care of their gardens well and hopefully this site will be completed soon so as to allow normality to those already living there. Many individual homes along the roads of the village are well tended and show a good sense of pride in their properties.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The layout of the roads of the village is very orderly with a straight through main road and branches from this. The speed of traffic passing through the village is disturbing. This often makes the stopping and starting off of cars from the village difficult. The side roads are frequently difficult to exit from due to traffic speed. The school, being on the main road presents safety hazards in this regard.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballon is an attractive village with much interest. The website idea could be the start of a new era in town and village interest and development.