

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYMURPHY**
County : **CARLOW**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 30-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	--
The Built Environment	40	23	--
Landscaping	40	25	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	--
Litter Control	40	31	--
Tidiness	20	16	--
Residential Areas	30	20	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	--
General Impression	10	7	--
TOTAL MARK	300	195	--

Ballymurphy, County Carlow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Welcome to the tidy towns competition. Since you were established in 1999 you appear to have made great strides in developments and in engendering a good community spirit in the village. It is great to have 20 members out of a population of 49. This will facilitate much progress being made. The Carlow County Council appears to have been very favourable to the village and between the committee and the council major advances have been achieved. A three to five year plan is required for the competition - this can be an outline year by year of your objectives and how you will achieve them - it helps to focus on reality and is an incentive to progress.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

On approaching the village from the Borris side, the Church figures very prominently on the landscape. The church is a magnificent stone building and if it is not already lighted at night - that would be a great project. The walls in and about the village are particularly noticeable - both the older walls and the more recently built walls. The long stretch of wall from the bridge to the grotto is marvelous and also the walls on the entry driveway to the church. The derelict buildings are a difficulty and hopefully these will be resolved soon. The school had just been painted at adjudication time and looked bright and well. The community hall is a fine building. The grotto is a well-built structure and merges well with the stone of the village walls. The business premises are in good order. A little attention to the side of the petrol station premises and to the front of Murphys would be helpful.

LANDSCAPING

The entrance from the Borris direction is very well landscaped with attention to grass verges, tree planting and attractive plantings. The containers of all types add great summer colour to the village and as summer progresses these will improve. The positioning of the baskets along the wall is impressive. Gardens in the locality contribute well to the overall landscape of the village - particularly the garden on the Enniscorthy road. The church grounds are very well tended and the grassed area with natural stone wall to the back makes a pleasant picture.

The seat and the planting on the wall is a good idea. The yew trees along by the side of the church are a nice feature of the grounds. The school grounds were prepared for planting at adjudication time.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The proposal to make a wildlife garden within the school seems a good idea. The many hedges by the roadsides with thorn and various other plants make an interesting study in themselves.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was noted to be of a very high standard. This requires constant vigilance and good credit is due to all you care for the village .

TIDINESS

There is a very tidy appearance to the village. This is helped by the new surfacing on the roads and the very well constructed walls and bridge. A little untidiness is present at the community centre where the surface is rough and materials are heaped there. The derelict buildings do not help in this regard but hopefully they will be resolved soon.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are few residences in the village but those present are well tended and as stated above each individual makes a major contribution by the care attention given to the houses and gardens.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The road surfaces are extremely good and the tarmac makes the village look as if new carpet has been laid. The road markings are excellent too.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It was a pleasure to see a new entrant with such enthusiasm and eagerness for improving the village. Best wishes for future progress.