

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLYSHANNON**  
County : **DONEGAL**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	26
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	24	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	18
Litter Control	40	22	20
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	24
General Impression	10	6	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>171</b>

## **Ballyshannon, County Donegal**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Your 3 year development plan contains many good ideas and future projects. It really needs to include achievable target dates for each project and may have to stretch to a five year plan as you clearly have some long term projects in the form of derelict buildings. Each year should list the projects, under each heading, to be achieved. Not only will you score more marks under this heading but you have clearly defined goals for your committee, residents associations and supporters. Please try and submit a typed development plan next year. Your plan for 2002 is predominantly cosmetic and this is an excellent starting point as it generates enthusiasm and quickly rewards your efforts. Your map is first class, easy to follow and a credit to you. The photographs are also much appreciated by the adjudicator. Well done on the student project.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

New Abbey Arts Centre\Cinema could have been a bolder architectural statement indicating a healthy future building programme within the town. McMullan's Solicitors Office was admired for its elegance. There are a lot of derelict buildings on both Main Street and the road from the cinema down to the Diamond. The Saimer Court Shopping Centre is unsightly along its river façade with the large advertising signage. Inis Saimer and Portnason houses along with the Gate Lodge all looked splendid indeed. It is good to note that your development plan proposes future renovation under this heading and your plan for a library is an excellent one. The CPO on three further derelict buildings (which ones are they?) is another positive step towards the rejuvenation of areas of the town. I look forward to the restoration of the Workhouse and hope that the potential grant materialises to aid you in this project. Frank Dorrian's Bar was admired. St. Anne's, St. Patrick's and three Presbyterian Churches are all very fine buildings.

### **LANDSCAPING**

A potential area for landscaping is in front of the Spar on the approach road from Donegal town. You should utilise the skills of the two landscape gardeners acquired by FAS. The Mall Quay is an area of immense potential with stunning views and an abundance of wildlife. I look forward to a sensitive development of this area and the inclusion of a picnic area. The entrance to Saimer Drive was admired for the flower bedding at its entrance. Donegal Parian China have improved their flower beds with good annual planting. The water feature at the Rock nursing unit is well landscaped. A new stone walled entrance to the Lakeside Centre was under construction on adjudication day. The AIB was admired for its shrubs and planting.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Congratulations to Station Road Residents Association for the idea of creating a pond in

their area. This will be a source of great pleasure for years to come and create a natural habitat for local wildlife. The Donegal Bay Walking Guide details some very good coastal and town walks but does not highlight local wildlife - do you have a separate Nature Trail too? The Abbey Well and Mills are in an area of great natural beauty and both maintained to a very high standard. Can the abandoned car be removed from this area as it is most unsightly?

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Approach road from Bundoran had quite a lot of litter especially in the vicinity of Inis Saimer and Portnason houses and more was seen on the bridge. The provision of a bottle bank is to be commended but do try and keep it tidy as there was broken glass around the bases and litter in the car park on adjudication day. The centre of town was itself quite tidy.

## **TIDINESS**

The Donegal Town approach road was spoilt by the presence of several large advertising signs. The footpath and wall in the vicinity of Donegal Parian China requires attention as they have much weed growth as does the footpath adjacent the Bus Station. The IDA entrance appears tidier. The first floor terrace at Sweeney's Bar was very untidy with a lot of children's toys strewn about. Try to avoid the fly posting witnessed at Mall Quay and other areas around the town.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The housing in the vicinity of East Rock road was very much admired and Josie's Bar was well presented with window boxes. Much of the housing along Station road and the back streets was very pleasant. The thatched cottages on Bishop Street looked lovely. New housing estates were noted on the outskirts of town that were well presented. The houses on Backmall are very well kept. The housing on Erne Street is a little run down with quite a lot of weeds on the footpaths here and on College Street.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Main Street and the road from the cinema down to the Diamond were in very poor condition. Approach road from Bundoran had freshly cut grass verges but requires a footpath. The bi-lingual town signs, on the approach roads, could be individualized as opposed to using the ubiquitous council signs. The new mosaic street name signs admired at Station Road, The Mall and East Port are an excellent feature, being both original and reflective of the working traditions of the area. These are to be highly commended and will hopefully be added to many more streets. The entrance to the GAA Park could be improved as there is a lot of surface water whilst the name plaque requires attention. The road surface appeared renewed along East Rock. The footpath along the Belleek approach road needs to be reinstated. There is a damaged area of stone wall on Abbey lane.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Undoubted inroads have been made over the past year but the major projects required to tackle dereliction will take time. Ballyshannon is located in an area of great natural beauty and history which is clearly not lost on the committee.