

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINAMORE**
County : **LEITRIM**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	216	212

Ballinamore, County Leitrim

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It was encouraging to note that you receive support both in financial and practical terms from the local community – there is certainly a great sense of civic pride in the town. It was disappointing to note your problem regarding vandalism and litter although these were not apparent on the day. It is essential at this stage in the competition that you formulate a three or five year work programme outlining your objectives for the town and setting them against a timeframe for their implementation. This document need only be one or two pages long and would be of immense benefit to both yourselves and the adjudicators when it comes to assessing your progress over the years.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most buildings of the town looked extremely well on adjudication day. The National School looked very fresh in its yellow and peachy tones. The Library was fine and the planting outside was admired. The church in its central location with pansies outside looked well presented. The Fire Station was fresh. The old national school which presumably contains the community hall will need painting before next year's competition. There is a good use of colour throughout the town making the streets quite cheerful – for example the Poor Scholar in bright red and the AIB in its corporate colours. It was reassuring to note that a number of premises such as Café Rio and Smyth's retained their original sash windows. There is also a good use of Irish throughout the town. Do discourage plastic signage and encourage its replacement with ones of a more traditional timber variety. Curved canopies should also be discouraged and replaced, where appropriate, with awnings of a traditional fabric variety.

LANDSCAPING

This is an area of the competition that you obviously enjoy. The simple and dignified monument to John Joe McGirl was simply presented. The landscaped areas to the front of public buildings have been mentioned previously. The peaceful marina areas contribute well to this aspect of the competition. The Four Seasons had displays of magnificent plants for sale.

WILDLIFE

This is an area in which Ballinamore is indeed fortunate with the Grand Canal Basin at its doorstep. Your work in regard to establishing a duck sanctuary is to be commended.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good with the town being virtually litter free. However one can never be complacent in situations like this and it is

important to be ever vigilant in this regard. The number and condition of litter bins is also an item for consideration under this heading.

TIDINESS

A garage for sale at the entrance from the Fenagh Road looks unfortunate and hopefully some improvements will take place here once it is sold. The fascia to the Vivo Garage canopy was damaged and should be repaired. A couple of rough areas in the vicinity of the public marina looked unfortunate – one containing rocks was quite overgrown and had gravel dumped in it and another which appeared to be a picnic area at the road junction in this location was extremely overgrown.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Attractive houses and gardens on the Fenagh Road created a good impression – particularly a number with bright coloured rhododendron bushes caught the eye. Woodview B&B and garden looked attractive. Raised gardens to two storey houses on the Killeshandra Road made a good impression as did an attractive cottage garden set behind a stone wall on this road. Some of the houses in the vicinity of the estate in this location were not to the same high standard as the rest.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the Fenagh Road the welcome sign was admired and the grass verges had been roughly cut back in this location but appeared to a better standard further in. On the Killeshandra Road attractive planting at the road junction to Ard Abhainn and at the welcome sign were greatly admired. New hedging and rose bushes had been planted on the neatly cut grass verges. The Aughnasheelin Road was looking quite rough. The children crossing sign on the Killeshandra Road had dropped down its support poles. Do discourage the practices of fly posting and advertising hoardings as they can give a rather cluttered appearance. The main streets of the town looked well but as you point out yourselves in your application, back streets and rear areas also need attention.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballinamore is a busy centre whose residents obviously show a great pride in its appearance.