

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINALEE**
County : **LONGFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	27
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	22	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	21	19
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	20
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	171	165

Ballinalee, County Longford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your documentation and photographs. Even without them it was obvious that a lot of admirable work is proceeding in Ballinalee. It is not clear from your map what the circled numbers refer to, as there is no key enclosed. When enclosing your Development Plan next year please state whether it is a 3-year or 5-year plan and please show targets for what is to be completed in each successive year – for example, Granary project to be started in 2002, refurbished 2003, completed 2004 (or whatever); committees find that by setting themselves such objectives the work takes on a particular momentum.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The best piece of architecture is St John's Church and this appears to be very well kept – last year it was mentioned that there was a need for work on the roof and we wonder if this is urgent? The RC church is beautifully kept – tarmacadamming work on the car park was in progress at the time of judging, and it is hoped that there will be adequate planting to take the bare look off what could become a very bleak space. Generally, business premises are neat and attractive, though Gorman's fine shop is encumbered with mass-produced signage. The built core of the town is an excellent example of the traditional settlement growing up from a cross-roads – looking in four directions there is a first class challenge to maintain and improve this heritage. The new cream-coloured houses opposite Gorman's are traditional in style and an excellent start to renewal. The Granary project is an exciting and worthwhile project and its completion is eagerly looked forward to.

LANDSCAPING

Open spaces are well maintained. The area around the RC Church that is not affected by ongoing work was looking very smart indeed. Small areas of both public and private planting are effective. The Camlin paths and seating are a well ordered amenity. The lakeside area by the football ground is well kept but not yet of a standard to be considered for the national Waterside Award.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Donkey husbandry is a wonderful return to old methods and probably much more effective than the new! – thank you for the photograph. The beech tree nursery as shown in the photograph is impressive. Most young trees are doing well, but those opposite Rawley's referred to last year as surrounded by nettles and weeds were the same this year – young trees need a better chance.

LITTER CONTROL

Bins were noted in salient positions. There was very little litter – congratulations on this achievement.

TIDINESS

As expected from your notes, the continuing work with heavy machinery in the town centre and also on the Granard Road makes it impossible to maintain these areas in the way one would wish. Consideration has been given to this difficulty and marks have not been reduced, but it will be at least next year before you can hope to do well under this heading. Some vacant sites were again noted, and the garage next to the Top filling station leaves much to be desired.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most homes are looked after with pride, many – such as on the Longford Road - having attractive front gardens. The cream-coloured houses at the cross roads have already been favourably mentioned, and to these should be added similar houses in the adjacent cul-de-sac. The new scheme opposite the RC Church is promising – make sure that trees are planted when building work is completed. A fine traditional house to the right of the RC Church is in need of attention.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

What will certainly be a greatly improved approach road from the Granard side was still under construction on adjudication day. Excellent wooden palings along this stretch are an enhancement. There is a fine opportunity for much tree planting here. The first class new stone wall opposite the Stag's Head should be an example for future work of a similar nature elsewhere. Road surfaces throughout the town are poor, mainly because of the extensive construction work.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A place of much dignity and charm at present in the throes of considerable developmental work which is inhibiting progress under certain headings, but within a year or two there should be substantial increases in marking provided the committee, with householders and business people, stick to their admirable objectives.