

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYHAUNIS**
County : **MAYO**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 27-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	39
The Built Environment	40	27	25
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	22	21
Tidiness	20	9	8
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	190	182

Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your detailed map and comprehensive list of objectives as recommended in last year's report. Ballyhaunis is undergoing a total makeover. The 'feel-good' factor gained from successful implementation of last year's proposals is very much in evidence in the town. On the day of adjudication, a number of prime commercial properties were being painted. The colour scheme complements the town's character. The continuation of monthly meetings with Mayo County Council to monitor improvements is strongly advisable. Liaison between the Local Authority, schools, FAS and the community in the town is an excellent means by which experiences, ideas can be exchanged and more importantly maintained. The town has acquired a 'Tidy Towns' ethos. Well done PRO!

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The town has become more pedestrianised due to the fortuitous development of convenient car parks. For this reason, the many fine premises around the Square are handsomely exposed. The Bank of Ireland and McGarry's Drapery looked particularly well. On the opposite side of the street, Dillon's appeared neglected, as it is an imposing building, it spoils the overall appearance of an otherwise attractive street. Clare Street is indeed a revelation with a number of tastefully painted buildings stretching as far as the Public Library and Fire Station. Improvements need to take place beyond this point. Buildings along Bridge Street appeared drab; traffic congestion being a possible cause. Abbey Street boasts the superb Friary with its manicured lawns and decorative borders. The Convent school grounds are impeccable. The Scout Hall on the Castlerea Road appeared dilapidated. The premises towards the far end of Knox Street made a poor impression although B.P.H. was newly painted. The majority of commercial premises on the outskirts of the town were dull in appearance. The Star Cinema remains in a poor state of repair. Gill's Bar on Clare Street has been nominated for a regional/national award with its well-preserved upper storey and its traditional sign shop front and lettering. Its gleaming windows and window boxes are most eye-catching. The church and its grounds are flawless.

LANDSCAPING

The walk alongside the Clare river is crying out for further development. Now that the clearing is nearing completion, the value of this amenity cannot be overstated. The Committee should consider developing a number of designated walks around the town for the enjoyment and pleasure of its residents. Flowers set around trees along the main street complement the decorative lighting. However, there are areas where landscaping is in a state of neglect. The flowerbed at the intersection under the bridge is totally overgrown. The grass along approach roads from Castlerea and Knock needs to be cut. Whilst the entrance to 'Beech Park' estate was well maintained, the 'Beech Lawns'

estate was in need of attention. An agency needs to take responsibility for the green area surrounding the Railway Station.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Not a great deal seems to have been undertaken this year. Please furnish us with information on the entry form so that it can be assessed. Ballyhaunis and its environs is rich in urban, wetland, woodland and grassland habitats. This is certainly a project that you could get schools involved in.

LITTER CONTROL

The provision of new litter bins at regular intervals along main street have helped to alleviate the litter problem. However, litter was observed in car parks and side-streets. The existing Litter Management Plan must be reviewed.

TIDINESS

Ballyhaunis has been transformed with the re-organisation of car parking, attractive kerbing, lighting, paving and appropriate tree planting. However, the poor presentation of major industrial premises on the outskirts of the town diminish the high standard achieved by individual properties in the town centre. The car park is under-utilised and unkempt.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most of the residences along Main Street and the Knock Road are generally well looked after and should be a source of pride to their owners. However, Abbey Vale and a number of residences on Doctors Road appeared neglected. There are a number of new housing estates under construction that, when completed, should enhance the town further.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

New paving and kerbing adds to the appearance of the town considerably and one would like to see this extended. Car parks need urgent attention. Surfaces along major approach roads are quite good with the exception of the Galway route that appeared uneven. Plans to improve Barrack Street are encouraged.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The efforts of the Committee to involve all sectors of the community in the presentation of Ballyhaunis are commendable. The Square has cultivated a cosmopolitan feel and plans to erect a bronze sculpture will greatly enhance this focal point. The initiative to organise a 'Best Window Display' competition during the Ballyhaunis Music Festival heightens awareness of Tidy Towns considerably. The side streets and open spaces in

almost all housing estates would benefit from additional tree planting. Screening unattractive premises with trees is advisable. All good wishes with further developments.