

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINTOGHER**
County : **SLIGO**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	36
The Built Environment	40	28	25
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	26
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	217	206

Ballintogher, County Sligo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballintogher is quite an attractive village. Many thanks for your inclusion with the application. The leaflet on the attractions of the village certainly made interesting reading. You have a very large committee given the population of the village and this is obviously paying off. The 1,000 hours voluntary time put in has certainly been put to good use. Your submission was well laid out and very clear, including progress report of your achievements over the last three years which also included one or two areas where you haven't been quite as successful. The projected projects for the coming years certainly made interesting reading.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most of the buildings of the town looked well on adjudication day. One empty boarded-up building on the main street was barely noticeable. Out buildings had been painted up including tin roofs on the Collooney Road. However the recessed area outside appeared somewhat weedy. The modern School had attractive hedging surrounding it and the Church on the hill with its attractive green and gold mosaic above its central door porch was greatly admired and had well maintained grounds. Higgin's and the Post Office were both quite fresh although the signage to the latter will need painting before next year's competition. McGuinness's looked well. Do discourage the use of plastic signage and encourage its replacement with ones of a more traditional timber variety. Treston's is an attractive traditional front which appears now to be a house. The Enterprise Centre looked well as did the Foroige Club.

LANDSCAPING

Incidental landscaped spaces throughout the village were well cared for. The attractive amenity area opposite the School with its stone wall surround into which the pump had been recessed looked well however the pump itself will need painting up before next year's competition. Some colourful nasturtiums had been planted at the base of the stone wall to the roadsides. The well maintained grotto at the crossroads was also admired.

WILDLIFE

Your initiatives involving a plastic tunnel at the school to encourage the school children to grow flowers and plants to be located around the village is a marvelous one. It was good to note that you consider bees, butterflies and birds when planting trees and shrubs.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard of litter control on the day was excellent with the village appearing virtually litter free. A single plastic base to a bottle was evident in the vicinity of Higgins.

TIDINESS

The village has a very neat and ordered appearance. An interesting shed with staggered vents and a tin roof on the Sligo Road should be painted up as it is most unusual.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The buildings along approach roads and in the village itself were well cared for on the day. There appears to be a private house in the old stone church at the crossroads – it was most attractive in its prominent location. The housing estate on the Riverstown Road was well maintained including its open space. Some pretty houses nearer to the crossroads on this road were also admired. New houses were being built on the Dromahair Road. Another pretty cottage opposite the out building on the Sligo Road was admired for its colourful window boxes.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Collooney Road is an attractive entrance to the village – its welcome sign in stone bed with attractive flowers planted at the base including pansies looked well. The Dromahair Road sported some attractive hedging, grass banking and overhanging trees. The montbretia in this location will be marvelous when in full bloom. Stone walling was in progress on the day just beyond the village nameplate. This entrance to the village affords the visitor views of some magnificent scenery.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This adjudicator was very impressed with Ballintogher on this their first visit to the village. It is a pretty place and efforts appear to be being made in every aspect of the competition. It is a peaceful but busy and self sufficient village.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (07/08/2002)

Ballintogher has earned a substantial increase in marks in this years competition, well done! The entrance from the Dromahair Road is characterised by neat grass verges, well managed hedgerow and stands of semi mature trees. Dwellings on this road exhibited well presented boundary walls in contrast to those on the Ballygawley Road. The village centre looks really attractive with its newly surfaced areas and its landscaped car-parking bays. Young trees are establishing themselves well here. The footpath to the Drumkerrin junction should be reinstated.

Litter control is good and the recycling point is neat in presentation. New developments

are settling into their environment well. We look forward to the (appropriate) redevelopment of the derelict site and premises on the Geevagh road. The Foroige club premises may need to be cleaned/painted soon to freshen its appearance. The large green area to the residential development on the road to the Drumkerrin junction is nicely landscaped but the grass was a bit too long in places during second adjudication.