

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLISODARE**  
County : **SLIGO**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	36
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	18
Litter Control	40	25	30
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>203</b>

## **Ballisodare, County Sligo**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Firstly the adjudicator would like to reassure Ballisodare Tidy Towns Committee that “early” adjudication is not detrimental as what is being taken into consideration is the town’s general appearance and not abundant hanging baskets and flower boxes! Neither does the village’s location within the country affect the time of its adjudication. Ballisodare Tidy Towns Committee is obviously an extremely active and enthusiastic one. The inclusion of a qualified horticulturalist on the committee must be of great advantage to you. Your work in conjunction with Iaranrod Eireann and the County Council in relation to the village Design Statement is to be commended. The latter’s suggestion of a river access point at the old derelict mill is certainly an interesting one. You seem to have a good level of support from the local community. Your one to five year work programme is certainly an interesting and practical one. Good luck with your future efforts.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

On the Ballina approach, St. Mary’s College and grounds looked well and Toolin’s looked fine. Dun Maeve looked fine but will need painting before next year’s competition. Please do try to replace plastic signage with ones of a more traditional timber variety. The magnificent wrought iron canopy to one of the many stone buildings in the village was greatly admired. The village has the benefit of a number of fine traditional shop fronts. O’ Connor’s was quite fresh, as was the Post Office and Sherlock Meats was well presented. The funeral home was fine and the Church and Graveyard looked extremely well. The main street affords the visitor a magnificent view to the rocky hills behind. Construction work was taking place to a large building on Main Street and it is hoped that this will be in keeping with the village’s unique style. Another large building was for sale near the bend in the road at the Sligo side of the village. The stepped gabled garage is quite charming but unfortunately was boarded up and sported a rusty tin roof. A mere paint job would improve this charming building immensely.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The Grotto at the crossroads looked extremely fresh and was presented to a high standard. The rusty railings on the way to the rear of the bridge created a bad impression. However, the hanging baskets on the bridge were noted and admired and should be a wonderful colourful display in the weeks to come. The black metal sculpture of running figures to the open space near the 2 storey houses on the Ballina Road is an interesting feature for both visitors and locals.

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### **WILDLIFE**

Ballisodare is indeed fortunate in this regard given its magnificent location on Ballisodare Bay and with the benefit of many and varied walks throughout the locality. Your work in relocating the swan nest site to a higher level to avoid flooding is most commendable. The provision of nature trails around the area will be of benefit to many people.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The standard of litter control on adjudication day could have been better. Although first impressions seemed to indicate the village was litter-free, closer inspection revealed a lot of litter opposite the School and some papers further in outside Toolin's. More litter was evident at the area opposite the Graveyard on the Sligo side of the village. Your participation in the Spring clean lecture given by the County Council in relation to composting is to be commended. The provision of a community composting and recycling facility will certainly be of great benefit to everybody.

## **TIDINESS**

The village generally had a neat and ordered appearance. Do discourage posters as it gives approach roads rather cluttered appearance. Weed control was a problem the kerbs outside Salmon Court. The area between this development and the Church appeared quite rough – the presence of a planning notice in this location gives hope that this area will be developed in the not-too-distant-future.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The standard in this category of the competition was somewhat inconsistent. There are a large number of houses on the Ballina approach road. These appeared in reasonably good condition but a number including their boundary walls will need painting up before next year's competition. The open space near the new two storey houses on the Ballina Road appeared quite rough and should be taken in hand. A number of the houses on the bend at the Sligo side of the village should be painted up before next year's competition. A magnificent garden and flower filled avenue adjacent to a single-storey dwelling on the Sligo Road looked quite magnificent. Salmon Court is a new development and it has an attractive stone boundary wall.

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

The Ballina Road was fine. The wild daisies on top of the stone walls and grassy banks on this side of the village are most attractive. It affords the traveler magnificent views to the mountains beyond. The geraniums in the planted bed at the village nameplate on the Sligo Road were admired

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Ballisodare is obviously a busy village with a very active and enthusiastic committee. The high level of support you have from the local community is evident. It is a charming village set in some magnificent scenery of Ballisodare Bay. Good luck with your endeavours regarding the village's future.