

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYMOTE**
County : **SLIGO**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	28
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	26	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	24	25
Tidiness	20	11	12
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	18
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	179	176

Ballymote, County Sligo

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Many thanks for your three to five year plan which made interesting reading. However you do not seem to have set out objectives for individual areas but merely outlined the statement of intent. Perhaps for next year's competition, within the framework of the plan, you could set timeframes for the achievement of some of your objectives that you have outlined under the individual categories of the competition. The coordinated colour scheme for the town is a fine initiative and should improve the standard of the built environment considerably. The old cinema is a fine building of its type – perhaps it could be incorporated or adapted to its new use as a library without demolishing it. Unfortunately it is in very bad condition at the moment.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The standard in this category of the competition is somewhat inconsistent. Public buildings such as the Schools looked extremely well – in particular the National School in orange with its fresh red trimmed railings and the Ceard Scoil. Please discourage the use of plastic signage and encourage their replacement with ones of a more traditional timber variety. The Coach House Hotel looked extremely well with its colourful hanging baskets and bay trees on each side of the door, however, it was in sharp contrast to the standard of most buildings in this area of the town. Loftus Hall looked extremely fresh. There are a number of attractive traditional shop fronts which should be restored to their former glory such as Reynold's. Please ensure that their traditional features including the up and down sash windows are retained. In terms of commercial buildings the Picnic Basket, Londis and Scanlan's were all extremely fresh. The Garda Station was also in good condition. Work was ongoing to the centrally located Church.

LANDSCAPING

This is an area of the competition that is well catered for. What landscaped areas there are are, well maintained but there is scope for further projects throughout the town. The attractive planted area including the monument adjacent to the animal care centre looked extremely well and the park area by the Abbey ruins with its freshly cut grass and relatively new trees was also admired. The landscaped banks of the train station car park looked quite magnificent! The Town Park, also accessed from this location via a tunnel, also looked well with mature overhanging trees and peaceful stream area. The main streets of the town and approach roads are obvious locations for developing this aspect of the competition.

WILDLIFE

Your plans in relation to developing a wild flower section on the Sligo Road bank and the provision of bat and bird boxes and bird tables at the town park is highly commendable.

LITTER CONTROL

The standard of litter control on the day could have been better. Some litter was evident on the Drumfin Road and outside the School. A scratched bin in this location also created a bad impression. More litter was apparent leading up to the Ceard Scoil and another outbreak was evident on the Castlebaldwin Road.

TIDINESS

Weed control was a problem to kerbsides on the Castlebaldwin approach. Graffiti and general neglect was a problem on the road leading to the Vocational School. An unfinished mural in this location looks quite untidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Houses within the town centre and along approach roads were kept to a reasonable standard on adjudication day. There are a number of new developments taking place – please ensure that these do not compromise the town's unique character. An attractive house on the Galway Road which had marigolds set in a stone bed at the roadside was greatly admired as was a house sporting unusually coloured deep red rhododendrons on the Castlebaldwin Road.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Try to ensure that approach roads strike a balance between giving a natural appearance and looking totally overgrown. On the Castlebaldwin Road the town nameplate was virtually obscured by overgrowth. The rear area by the Vocational School has been previously mentioned. The litter, graffiti and the general neglect of out buildings detracted greatly from this area. The approach roads could have been maintained to a higher standard.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballymote is a very busy centre set in a large agricultural catchment area. The presentation on the day was somewhat inconsistent. Good luck with your plans for the town's future.