

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYCAHILL**
County : **TIPPERARY NORTH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 01-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	34	32
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	219	215

Ballycahill, County Tipperary

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thanks to the committee for submitting comprehensive entry form, summary of 3-year plan and map of the village. For a committee so small you certainly get through an amount of work and no doubt cooperation of the local community, summer job scheme and input from FAS helps. As one who has recourse to passing through Ballycahill a couple of times a year I must say that it looked very tranquil on what was a somewhat miserable "summers" day.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It's a few years since this adjudicator visited the village in a so-called 'official' capacity and I must say that there have been very positive changes in the interim. The standard of presentation of all buildings in this lovely village was extremely high and the addition of Creane's Pub complementing the thatch shop is to be welcomed. The cobbled footpath in front is very in keeping with the overall development. The new Community Centre is a very imposing building in such a small village but it will blend in once the development is fully complete and the side areas are cleaned up and landscaped properly.

The Church and National School and their respective grounds were a credit to those responsible for their upkeep as they were in top class condition. The Village green, which one of only a few of its type to be seen nation wide was also extremely well maintained and credit is due to the caretaker. The Graveyard is also maintained in a tidy fashion with areas between graves cut back and grass clippings collected. Stonewalls especially as you enter from Thurles are central to the attractiveness of the village

Ballycahill also has a number of appealing dwellings most notable amongst these are a couple of very well presented farmhouses and farmyards as well as those on the right hand side of the village near the Church and PO. The condition of the grotto has improved somewhat since a few years back but maybe it needs a planned refurbishment that's if parish funds allow for such an undertaking.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping and planting arrangements are a strong point of the village. There are a number of very well planned arrangements to be seen around the village, the mix of shrubs, annuals and perennials is just right and the village is not over beautified. The arrangement in front of the private houses on the Church side of the village appealed to this adjudicator. Individual gardens are of a very high standard and some of these are also complemented by lovely flower

boxes and tubs. Trees are very important to any village or urban landscape and Ballycahill has embraced this concept in a very positive fashion with oak, ash and beech and one or two other exotic species planted within the village and on approach roads. The Village Green and the National School grounds again deserve special mention in this category for the manner in which planting arrangements have been put in place.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is good to see that the Committee has ensured that nesting boxes have been placed in tree across from the Grove on the Holycross road. This will serve as a start for a mini wildlife project; maybe the schoolchildren will become involved by putting together some information on wildlife species that can be seen around Ballycahill.

LITTER CONTROL

There was a little amount of litter visible on the day but that can be addressed by the weekly clean ups. The wooden litterbins are a nice feature and in keeping with the rural ambience. The Litter awareness programme undertaken in the school is a very positive initiative as those children are adolescents and adults of the future.

TIDINESS

The village for the most part was very tidy with one or two exceptions. The area adjacent to the new Community Hall needs to be treated for weeds and should not be left get out of control also the sign post for Limerick near the church needs to be replaced. On the positive side the Village Green, the focal point of the village, is extremely tidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The Village of Ballycahill is really one main residential area and all private residences were in good condition contributing to the overall high standard of presentation. The residents of Local Authority houses on the Holycross Road deserve special mention for the manner in which they keep their premises with some having excellent gardens both front and back.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All entrances to the village were maintained to a very high standard with verges and hedgerows treated as per the guidelines and with the survival of wildlife in mind. The standard in this category was comparable to any similar sized village in the competition and better than most. Of course the road works that has taken place in the core of the village since last year has helped as well.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballycahill is a very pleasant village and it is no surprise that it

has achieved relatively high marks in competition over the last number of years. The Committee is small but in this case small is beautiful and the hard work is now paying off. The Community as a whole should rally round and give you much more support. Keep up the good work!