

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLINAHOWN VILLAGE**
County : **WESTMEATH**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	27	28
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	214	211

Ballinahown, County Westmeath

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

There is a high standard set in this village and work was being carried out on the day of adjudication. Attention to detail is now required at this level. Thank you for the information and the plans for the Millennium sculpture. It really looks amazing and the judges are looking forward to its completion. A plan will help you focus on aspects of the village that require attention and help to establish its name. It is an important village and many visitors on the way through to Clonmacnoise must pass through it.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The importance of the few buildings is stressed as each one plays an important part in the appearance of the village. The school was well presented though will need repainting before next year as will the basketball board. The Garda Station had some nice baskets and Rohans was well presented. The Church is a fine building and has a great presence with the fine trees around it. The house of the Athlone approach which is dilapidated does really need attention. The walls, which are a feature of the village, look well. They are stripped on the Athlone road presumably awaiting rebuilding and restoration. The judges hope that this is being carried out in a traditional manner and that selected wall plants are encouraged to grow so that they integrate better into the surrounding landscape.

LANDSCAPING

The incidental planting in the village looks well and many of the buildings feature hanging baskets. There is, however, a dead tree on the Athlone approach which needs to be removed. The school is exceptionally well landscaped though some of the trees look under stress. Ensure that all trees are maintained properly. There is a fine blue cedar growing in the parochial house that will soon make its presence felt.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

A nature trail was suggested in last year's proposals and presumably this will still go ahead. The area in the woods at the road junction must be a haven for wildlife. Has any type of survey taken place? It could be carried out in conjunction with the local school children.

LITTER CONTROL

Unfortunately, there was a scatter of litter on the Clonmacnoise and Athlone approach roads. This most likely emanated from passing cars. There are some litterbins – perhaps a notice on entry to the village regarding litter might

work.

TIDINESS

The village is generally tidy. Sand and gravel must be removed from the Athlone road unless they are being used for a specific purpose. The removal of barrels and sand will presumably take place in the car park once work has been completed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The village residences were generally well presented. There is an interesting house on the Clonmacnoise road with mirror pieces glinting in the sun. There is a nice old stone house at the corner of the village, which is well presented. The estate is good though the old rusty goalposts should be removed from the wall at the entrance to the estate.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The roads into the village were reasonable in presentation. As said before the walls are stripped for part of the Athlone road. There is a plethora of signs at the junction though some of these are to do with loose chippings. The grass is neat on the Ferbane road and the approach is well presented.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The village is very pleasant. You have many ambitious plans for which you are wished the best of luck. Do not let them distract you from the more mundane tasks such as the eradication of litter, the approach roads and tree and plant maintenance. Best of luck with your work.