

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYLONGFORD**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15
Landscaping	40	27
The Built Environment	40	23
Litter Control	40	19
Tidiness	20	9
Residential Areas	30	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	300	171

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballylongford is welcome to the 1996 Tidy Towns Competition. A lot of work needs to be accomplished in the village, between the bridge and the landscaped corners at the Carrickfoyle end of the village, in respect of the presentation of individual properties, roadside edges, boundary treatments etc. In your questionnaire next year, it would be a good idea to highlight those aspects of your plan which have been achieved over the last two or three years. It is good to note the co-operation you are receiving from the Co. Council and the ESB, perhaps this can be extended to having the wirescape eventually either eliminated or re-routed for minimal impact. It is also good to note the refurbishment of broken footpaths. Both the pier and the Abbey could be integrated further into the village by providing an information panel in the village centre on both features, their exact distance from the village and a little bit about their amenity value. The wire and post fencing leading up to the Abbey could be planted with a mixture of Beech and Hawthorn hedgerow and the area down the pier could be cleaned up of any unused machinery bits and pieces, abandoned cars and other items of questionable value. The rusty sheds down here might also be softened in their appearance by planting with climbing plants. It was good to note the recent cutting of green areas down at the pier.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is good to note that a wildlife area has been identified, this should be developed further by providing an information panel on the type of wildlife to be experienced and perhaps the publication of a small leaflet regarding the same. These should be included in next years application.

LANDSCAPING

The Grotto development is attractive. Flower displays in the carpark located across from the Spar shop are very beautiful together with the picnic facilities here. The carpark itself is very neatly presented with a fine surface and very clear definition between the carpark and the roadside edge, well done. Landscaped areas at the Carrickfoyle entrance to the village are admirable.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The 'O'Coileain' property which is vacant has some very attractive features which should be retained when this building is being restored or redeveloped. The canopy on 'Ted's Foodstore and Health Shop' needs to be cleaned. Many properties are in need of upgrading by either cleaning, painting or repairing, the Garda station being one of these. A major problem in the overall development of the village is the number of gap sites, hopefully these will be tastefully developed in the future but in the interim these should at least be cut back and maintained in a tidy condition. Other buildings which are in need of painting include the 'Builders Providers/Hardware' and the 'Agri-Business Farm Shop' property. Some high grey walls near the bridge just across from the latter property could be cleaned and painted. 'Bambury's' should also remove it's canopy. The over large plastic protruding sign on the 'Rovers Return' premises ought to be replaced with a sign much smaller in scale. The high grey roadside walls of 'Lynches Garage' could be cleaned or painted. The plastic neon sign and the coloured bulbs on the Community Hall should be removed and more appropriate signage provided. The walls, stand and Memorial Hall of the Sports Complex all need to be whitewashed. The Mill complex on the Main Street looks particularly poor and detracts from the overall appearance of the village centre.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is very weak in the village centre, this may be due in part to the poor condition of a number of litter bins, some of which were open and allowed the litter to spill over easily.

TIDINESS

Weed growth was noted sporadically along kerbs. Dereliction is a problem, in addition to which one or two sites featuring derelict machinery bits and pieces were also noted. Don't be discouraged by the number of derelict sites and the difficulty of dealing with these, keep up your efforts in this regard.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A boundary wall to a residential property on the Ballybunion road just before the nameplate needs to be cleaned or painted. The majority of residential properties are very well presented, nicely painted with some excellent flower displays. Of particular note are some properties around the entrance to the sports complex.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

It was good to note footpaths under construction on the Tarbert entrance to the village. Ensure that all building materials are removed upon completion. Many litter bins need to be upgraded. Nameplates and speed limit signs are in need of cleaning. Those noted were the one on the Ballybunion road and the other on the Tarbert road. A number of signs are in need of cleaning, in particular the Stop sign in the village centre. The bridge needs to be repainted. Another building in need of painting is the drapery shop near the Community Hall. Approach roads were generally well presented.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

While some fine work has been accomplished for the village the overall impression of Ballylongford is not quite favourable as there are far too many gap sites together with insufficient attention to detail.