

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballylinan**

Ref: **256**

County: **Laois**

Mark: **180**

Category: **B**

Date: **01/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	39
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	18	18
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>181</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your map which proved most useful on inspection day. The 300 house development which is taking place will have major impact on not only the physical but also the cultural life of your community. It is important that you establish the ways in which you as a community would like to see your village grow and expand within this context and set out your priorities in this regard.

### The Built Environment:

There are a number of interesting buildings along the main street. The area around the green with the Old RIC Station, the Health Centre, the Garda Station and the thatched cottage is particularly attractive. Equally, the old St. Annes Church, now a FAS centre was well presented and on the opposite side The RC Church, its lawns and shrubberies contrasted a more modern aspect to the towns built environment. The national school had an otherwise clinical appearance off set with its fine floral displays. It was disappointing to note a number of derelict sites and the Garage in the centre of the village is an unfortunate feature with badly maintained forecourt and broken lamp standard. The large poster site does not add to the village's appearance. The front of Dinny's Pub looks well and the yellow walled house next door is colourfully presented with hanging baskets. To the left is a row of attractive cottages but the frontage is marred by kerb side weed.

### Landscaping:

The village green is most attractively presented along with its adjacent water pump and floral decor. It is nicely set against old stone walls with a back drop of mature trees which connect to the main street. Unfortunately, there was a noticeable amount of kerb weed in the area.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Wynn Park looks very well although there was some isolated litter. No waste bins in evidence. The New Park, formerly a school is well presented with information display panel with interesting historic details. Features nice planter of shrubs. Surrounded by fine old wall. Old Church and graveyard with fine wall frontage near local authority estate appears suitable for wildlife habitat.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control programme is working well although there were some isolated 'shows' in Wynn Park and at the football pitch beside Llandii Drive

### **Tidiness:**

Kerb side weed is a recurring problem and needs regular attention. Good to see recycling bins at the FAS Centre. The bottle gas sign 'deposited' in the middle of the feature on the green should be removed. Opposite the RC Church is an attractive line of young trees set in a well maintained footpath. Llandii Drive has considerable weed show at its entrance.

### **Residential Areas:**

The new estate adjacent to the FAS Centre is beautifully presented with green area at its entrance and well maintained road and footpaths. Along Llandii Drive the hedging opposite the housing looks very well indeed. Most houses and gardens are nicely maintained. Linden Drive features a selection of modern bungalows with well maintained gardens. The terrace of local authority houses behind St. Patrick's NS is generally well kept.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

A feature of Ballylinan are its well maintained stone walls. Approach from Athy side has nice trimmed verge on right with mature hedging. The left side is reasonably well presented, some weed. In this area too is a nicely presented grass area with shrubs and flower beds. The approach from the Dublin side features a town sign almost covered with weed to the left. The right side is well maintained with mature hedge. The graveyard is neat and tidy and its interest heightened by the old abbey ruin. The roadside car park surface could be improved as could a little attention to wall top weed.

### **General Impression:**

Ballylinan is a pleasant town undergoing a time of considerable change. The development of its new 300 house estate will have major impact on its infrastructure which will be reflected in the restoration of a number of its main street buildings and their future uses.