

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinamore**

Ref: **456**

County: **Leitrim**

Mark: **220**

Category: **B**

Date: **27/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	220	216

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballinamore is a lovely commercial and tourist town which was buzzing on adjudication day. The town continues to improve in presentation, however as suggested in last years report, a 3/5 year plan is very necessary to expedite progress.

This plan will present you with a clear focus as to future work programmes which can be allocated to sub-committees.

The withdrawal of FAS Scheme and vacuum sweeper is a major set back - hopefully this is only a temporary measure.

Thank you for the completed entry form. A detailed and easy to follow town map would be appreciated with next years entry form.

Continue to work closely with state agencies and voluntary groups and plan well ahead for 2004.

The Built Environment:

Improvements continue to take place and were much noted by this adjudicator who had not visited Ballinamore for many years. Public buildings are well looked after and the Church in the centre of the town was most impressive and a striking feature of the streetscape. Most commercial properties looked well, however, discourage the siting of beer kegs outside public houses. The use of bilingual shop fronts was noted and you are commended for this. The greater use of hanging baskets and window boxes was also noted and they brighten the streetscape.

Shortts Heritage Bar, Credit Union, McKiernas, Galligans and An Siopa Bronntanas all looked well, however, the area of Lakeland Dairy is poorly presented and unsightly.

Landscaping:

A very high standard of maintenance, colour and selection of shrubs is very evident in the area of the marina. The landscaped area of the Church is tidily presented and welcoming and the many floral displays throughout the town enhance greatly the presentation. Some planting on the Fenagh Road also caught the eye and the garden overlooking the marina on the Aughnasheelin Road has improved significantly.

Source more suitable areas for additional landscaping on Killashandra and North approaches. An improvement under this heading is recorded by the adjudicator.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As a Tidy Towns Committee you have a role to play in enhancing the wildlife value of your area. The very rural environment and the Grand Canal basin should provide you with many opportunities in this regard. Do encourage the support of the schools by way of a suitable project under this heading which will have strong educational values. To progress, do enlist the advice of a local wildlife expert.

Litter Control:

Litter control was very good despite the large number of people about. Some incidental litter was noted on the Main Street but not of major significance.

Tidiness:

In general this adjudicator was pleased with your efforts under this heading. Your regular clean up programme is obviously a contributing factor.

Some forecourt areas on the Aughnasheelin Road need attention and the area of the bottle banks on the North Road was most untidy. As already mentioned, the Lakeland Dairy premises requires attention.

The marinas were very tidily presented this year and rightly so to impress and create a welcoming environment for visitors. A co-ordinated approach will enhance the presentation of Ballinamore ever further.

Residential Areas:

Residential areas were again well presented with well cared for gardens and indigenous planting. The terraced cottages opposite the playschool were most attractive and the houses on the Fenagh Road again impressed.

You have performed well under this heading - well done.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All approach roads looked well with the Fenagh Road presented to the highest of standards - neatly trimmed verges, tidily presented open spaces and sensible planting.

Killashandra Road whilst not up to the same standard was in the main tidy looking, however, as already mentioned the area of the Bottle banks on the North Road was very untidy. The Aughnasheelin Road except for the forecourt areas of some commercial properties has improved.

Do look after the presentation of directional sign posting, some needed cleaning - very important in a tourist town like Ballinamore.

General Impression:

For a town as big as Ballinamore a 3/5 year plan is necessary to coordinate your Tidy Towns work programme and to give you a clear focus as to what strategy you should progress. Give consideration also to forming sub-committees and encourage greater support from the commercial sector. You are progressing steadily - keep it going.