

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinalee**

Ref: **593**

County: **Longford**

Mark: **184**

Category: **B**

Date: **27/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	29
The Built Environment	40	25	23
Landscaping	40	23	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	24	21
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	21
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>171</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the comprehensive application, the comments and the photographs. You have obviously been hard at work and your fund raising will help you to achieve your objectives. A short 3-5 year plan in point form would be useful to give a sense of direction and focus. The map was particularly useful to the judges. The new roads into Ballinalee has created a situation where there seemed to be a number of speeding cars causing a problem for the village though speed management was noted too.

### The Built Environment:

There are some very pleasant and unique buildings in Ballinalee. Some of the more traditional such as Rawles are now far more uncommon so it is nice to see them well presented. Lakeland Stores needed attention as did the barn at the side of it. Both Gormans and Kings were fine and though working stores, it is important not to have so much out on the front pavement to avoid creating an obstacle course for those walking beside it or cluttering the area. The RC church and grounds looked very well and will look even better as the trees mature. The school looked well too. St. Johns is a fine building and was well kept. The graveyard opposite was neat and tidy - well done. The GAA ground was a hive of activity - though traffic cones, mounds of gravel and weedy areas made the carpark look untidy.

## **Landscaping:**

Landscaping throughout the village looked well. The church and its landscaped grounds was particularly fine. At General McEoins Forge, weed killer had been used with a heavy hand and there were clumps of white dead grass which looked most unattractive. Using the community garden to produce the shrubs for the village is highly commendable. This should be the way forward for many villages as you capitalise on your own abilities and knowledge.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The community garden is an excellent idea. Not too sure whether the attraction of hares and rabbits to your vegetable garden is a good thing though! Do encourage bird life throughout the village and also wildlife. Is the school involved- check out the Green School initiative operated by An Taisce. Birdwatch Ireland also have an annual winter survey of birds which the school could participate in. The area beside the Camlin river could also be a habitat that might be explored though access would need to be considered.

## **Litter Control:**

Litter was very scarce on the day of adjudication. Bins were in good order throughout. The recycling facility was noted and the area around it clean.

## **Tidiness:**

Ballinalee was generally tidy - the new stretch of road though a wee bit sterile due to its newness gave a very tidy appearance to the village in that road. The Edgeworthstown road did need attention and it did detract from the overall tidiness.

## **Residential Areas:**

The residences both within and on the outskirts of the village were well presented. The village houses were well painted in mainly traditional colors and this looked well. There were also some fine gardens in the houses on the outskirts of the village noted especially was the house on the GAA road. The new housing looked well. It is not overwhelming in nature and fits in with the village. Landscaping is still required in places but this will come in time.

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

There are three signs for Ballinalee on the Granard side - and one looked as though it had seen better days. Invariably, it is better to have one /maybe two signs ( one being more ornate/non standard). The road is generous and there is a wide sweep into the village. How many cars obey the 30mph sign? Trees would enhance this stretch no end, using one species/one colour to make better impact. The lead in road from Edgeworthstown was not so good and this was not helped by a wall that needed badly repainting.

## **General Impression:**

Substantial work has been undertaken in the form of roadworks, new housing and landscaping in Ballinalee in the past few years. Do ensure that the unique elements of your village are preserved. A plan will help to give greater direction - best of luck.