

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinamuck**

Ref: **275**

County: **Longford**

Mark: **176**

Category: **A**

Date: **27/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	9	9
Litter Control	40	26	25
Tidiness	20	10	9
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>170</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your application and map, although the map was a bit faded difficult to read. Perhaps a new one could be prepared for next year. The adjudicator was aware of the huge historic importance of the village and it was good to see that this was appreciated by the residents. It would have been useful to have a one page synopsis of recent works and future objectives. A plan is required for the next 5 year period to give direction to both the committee and village.

### The Built Environment:

There were many buildings of various states of presentation in this village. It is a long village if the pub and graveyard are taken into consideration. The church was neat and tidy and had some very nice planting. There was also some dereliction noted - this hopefully may be addressed as property values everywhere are increasing. The school was well painted and presented, as was the Post Office and shop and the area beside it neat and tidy. The tennis facility is a good amenity and was being used on the evening of the judging. There is a fine well kept carpark beside it and the interpretation/ information was interesting. The Pikesmans Inn was painted in good colour which was set off well by the baskets. The Heritage centre carpark had disabled parking though it could not be deciphered whether there was disabled access to the centre itself. The thatched pub is a pleasing building and typifies the rurality of the village.

## **Landscaping:**

There was some good examples of landscaping throughout the village. There was some nice tree planting up beside the tennis court. The garden of remembrance looked well - it had been recently weeded - however it is suggested that you choose disease resistant roses as there was a problem with some of them. The new tree planting on Arva road was admired though there was a problem with some of the older trees which needed attention. The length of the village needs to be addressed by providing a linkage. The use of same type species of tree linking the roads may be one way of doing it. A landscaping plan considering this should be undertaken.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

It was good to hear that you are aware of the nesting birds. You need a separate project focusing on the wildlife of the area. There are two ways - either designate a site ( specific habitat) or work throughout the village and outskirts e.g. identification of the variety of habitats such as hedgerow, meadow etc. and encourage wildflowers and bird life in these. Residents and school children should be encouraged through the use of bird table/nest boxes to observe and appreciate birds. Birdwatch Ireland has information that would be of use to you in this area.

## **Litter Control:**

There was good control of litter on the day with only one or two pieces noted on the evening of adjudication. The use of litter bins was noted and they were in good condition. Do you have an awareness programme operating through the schools? Children are the first step in education about litter and the absolute need to recycle materials.

## **Tidiness:**

The village centre was very tidy - well done. There were weedy areas noted around the graveyard on the hill, though the graveyard itself was tidy. Hedges were generally trimmed back though not overly so as this is a rural village.

## **Residential Areas:**

Houses in the village were in various states of development. Some of the more mature houses have very fine gardens and there was new landscaping ongoing in the newer developments. These will enhance the village as time goes on.

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

The approach from the cross roads was good, though this long approach to the village must make it difficult to keep it clean and tidy. A link along the road using similar plants/trees would tie the village together. The speed signage at the end of the village ( thatched pub) had been vandalised - why green paint was thrown on to it is any ones guess.

## **General Impression:**

The village looked very well on the summers evening. The evident pride in its history was palpable especially with the heritage/community centre and the imposing statue - well done on work completed - develop a plan for the future and this will give direction - best of luck.