

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballintubber-Roscommon**

Ref: **642**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **237**

Category: **A**

Date: **02/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	17
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	31
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	237	231

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballintober is welcome to the 2003 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed application and for your plan summary which makes interesting reading. Ballintober is set in gentle rolling lush pasture land and exudes an ambience of peace and tranquility. It is good to note the cooperation you are receiving from builders. Well done for taking this initiative. Congratulations also on your fund raising activities and sponsorship from local business. Your work with the development association, FÁS, the county council and LEADER can only serve to enhance life for residents of Ballintober.

The Built Environment:

Stone walls are a characteristic feature of the village and we note your goal to have restored all stone walls of Ballintober and its approach roads eventually. The water feature referred to in your plan was not operational at the time of the adjudication, we look forward to seeing this at a later date. The majority of buildings are well presented however the gable wall of the old school is a little weather stained and the large building at the corner of the Ballymoe road is in need of attention. The church was presented to its usual magnificent standard and the Garda Barracks looked well also. We note your plans to stone face the walls of the Barracks.

Landscaping:

Everyone involved in landscaping around the village is to be congratulated on the magnificent standard achieved. Green verges on approach roads were presented to the highest standard and young trees are establishing themselves well. Flower beds and container planting are colorful and featured in many places around Ballintober. Of course your strongest point is the green area on the main street in the centre of the village. The combination here of grassed areas, shrubberies, flower beds, trees of varying stages of maturation as well as stone work is impeccable. We do look forward to seeing the water feature in operation. The canopy created by the stand of mature trees on the Ballymoe road is a delight to experience.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The presence of Moor hens on the Moat at the castle adds a new dimension to the wild life of Ballintober. Well done on the bird boxes also. During the adjudication bird song was plentiful and made the adjudication process more pleasurable. Has a survey of the wildlife of the area been carried out? If so we would love to have the details.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent and we are pleased to note that it is your number one priority. The new litter bins were duly noted and all are well painted. Keep us up to date with new litter management strategies.

Tidiness:

The recycling point was tidy and is located at a good spot in the village. Ensure that all building materials are completely removed upon completion of projects. Be vigilant regarding weed growth around the base walls and along kerbs.

Residential Areas:

The majority of residential properties are presented to the highest standard and work in progress on new houses on the main road of the village were noted and, in particular, their stone boundary walls. Congratulations again on your initiative regarding liaising with builders. This will ensure that all new developments are sensitive to the characteristic features of the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

New stretches of footpath, newly surfaced road areas and newly refurbished or constructed stone walls were noted, especially on the road to the castle. Stone walls are a strong feature throughout the village and are characteristic of Ballintober. The gentle rise and fall of the Ballymoe Road allows a visual unfolding of the village on entering and acts as an invitation to spend time in Ballintober. Street furniture is well presented and the names stones were particularly admired. The adoption of green for field gates is a nice touch, particularly as they are coordinated with the litter bins.

General Impression:

The general impression of Ballintober is one of a village that is very well cared for by its residents and a village of which its residents are rightfully proud. It is always a pleasure to visit Ballintober, for any purpose.

Second Round Adjudication:

Ballintober was looking very well at second adjudication with all the summer flowers at their peak. There is a very clean and orderly appearance in the village. This is helped by the high standards of care and attention to the open grassed areas and tree and shrub borders. The area around the castle

ruins is well treated and the fresh well tended grass is the perfect setting for these castle ruins without any embellishment. The stone walls of Ballintober are magnificent and great credit is due for all the work that has brought the stone walls to their present state. These have now become a defining characteristic of the village and surrounds. The infill housing is progressing well and the stone wall to the road front of these houses will help to integrate them well into the village. Work is also progressing well on the new houses on the Ballymoe road. The water feature hopefully will be operational before long. Work on the old school is in progress and some attention to the petrol pumps at the top of the village would be welcome. Remaining overhead cables hopefully too will be placed underground.