

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyfarnon**

Ref: **171**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **209**

Category: **B**

Date: **09/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	23
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	209	206

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballyfarnon is welcome to the 2003 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed application and map. We note the absence of a planned work programme with your submission and encourage you to prepare one and submit it with next years application. It is quite difficult to make serious progress in the competition without such a work programme. Ballyfarnon obviously has a rich heritage and this is reflected in the built environment. Congratulations on the new bilingual signs for town lands. We commiserate with you on the loss of your Fas workers and other initiatives and wish you well in your effort to get a greater input from the Roscommon County Council. We acknowledge the high volume of voluntary labour in the care of the environment of Ballyfarnon. We wish you well in your efforts to overcome the problem of flooding of the crossroads.

The Built Environment:

The village has a handsome and successful stock of buildings with architectural styles ranging from single storey dwellings to handsome three storey dwellings to Alderfort house. The view of Ballyfarnon on the descent from the mountain road has strong visual amenity potential which could be capitalised upon if the rear of buildings were painted. It is suggested that a co-ordinated colour scheme be adopted for the village and that the rear and side of buildings be incorporated into the painting scheme. The Tyre Centre was admired as was Healys shop. Both the church and its grounds are presented to its usual excellent standard and the car park was tidy. The playschool sign at the school should be refurbished as it is a charming feature.

Landscaping:

The entrance to Ballyfarnon from the Keadue road is quite magnificent with its neatly maintained hedgerow, grass verges and stands of semi mature and mature trees. Well done to all concerned with this maintenance. The young tree trees on grass verges on the Sligo entrance to the village are being overtaken by long grass which is a pity, this may also hold back their growth. Landscaping at the monument in the town square has been noted and will make a significant contribution to the village centre as the trees here mature. Flower displays were noted and admired. The amenity development at the river looks well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done to all involved in clearing the river bed and maintaining a high standard here. The new life belt stands planned for the river are a good initiative. Wildlife meadows in the environs of the village are a delightful feature, particularly those noted on the entrance from the Sligo road. It is suggested that a wildlife survey be undertaken to identify habitats in order to protect them from potential threats.

Litter Control:

Litter control in the village was very good during adjudication, very little litter was spotted. We note your litter management activities including daily picking and weekly emptying of bins by the committee. the distribution of the Enfo brochure and leaflets to each household in the village appears to have been successful. Well done.

Tidiness:

Again your activities regarding tidiness in Ballyfarnon are paying dividends. Your Wednesday evening clean up is an excellent idea and we note your participation in the national spring clean week. The recycling point was well presented also. A large undeveloped field beside the name plate on the Sligo entrance looked rather untidy and building materials to the roadside edge of the garage type building in the village centre beyond the Tyre Centre present a problem under this heading also. Some stretch of kerbs out the Sligo road were sprouting weeds.

Residential Areas:

Well done on landscaping in residential areas and the painting of fences. Work in progress was noted on the stone facing of boundary walls on the mountain road and this looks promising. The boundary walls to one or two properties on the Keadue entrance were a little weather stained and in need of attention. Houses in the village centre fronting onto the street were for the most part well presented but should also be included in the suggested co-ordinated colour scheme for the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Try to prevent car parking directly in front of the new sculpture in the square and the landscaping here as it spoils its visual amenity value. The new stone wall was noted at the Keadue entrance and admired together with new name plates. Some road sides are in need of refurbishment and indeed some finger points need to be realigned. We wish you well in your efforts to have foot paths refurbished and to over come the problem of flooding as noted earlier.

General Impression:

The over all impression of Ballyfarnon is excellent. Particularly the entrance from the Keadue road with its beautifully maintained grass verges and semi mature and mature trees. The new amenity

developments and sculpture pieces are handsome features also. More could however be achieved for the built environment in the village centre.