

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinacarrow**

Ref: **734**

County: **Sligo**

Mark: **182**

Category: **A**

Date: **12/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	19	20
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	25	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	10
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	182	180

Overall Developmental Approach:

Last year's adjudicator mentioned that you might consider drawing up a plan for your future development over the next three (or five) years, as a means of identifying your particular needs in each category and as an annual goal to work towards. All the most successful centres have done this, to their enormous advantage. The comparatively slow progress over the last year, shown in the comments below, demonstrate that you do not appear to have set yourselves these goals. Ballinacarrow has such real potential, it seems a pity that with a committee of twenty members - a greater number than most - more has not been achieved this year. Please mark on your map all the sites which should be specially noted - it is unlikely that they will be overlooked, but one wants to be sure. A more impressive result will be looked forward to next year.

The Built Environment:

The School and the Church buildings were, as always, very well maintained. It was a delight to see how beautifully the garments of the sculptural figures had been painted. Durkin and Jimmy G's were also well painted. While it is a pity that such an obtrusive commercial building should be sited in the traditional village centre, the Texaco/Fallon premises was very bright and tidy on adjudication day.

Landscaping:

The very real initiatives of the past were spoiled in some cases by poor maintenance. Flowerbeds at the old school, for example, were overgrown with weeds, and the potentially delightful bed running the whole length of the National School frontage, which should make such a splendid show, was equally neglected.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your initiatives in providing bird feeding houses are applauded. Why not consider a school competition for identifying all the native trees, plants and animals, and the erection of an illustrated signboard (perhaps by the bridge) showing all the results, as has been done with such success in other villages. The streamside has real potential as an attractive and more accessible amenity.

Litter Control:

Your litter control was among the best encountered this year. Congratulations. It was also noted that bins have been painted.

Tidiness:

A site on the left as you arrive from Sligo gives a poor initial impression and needs attention. The roof of the handsome small barn opposite Durkin's needs attention - unfortunately untidy sites catch the eye all too readily. The shed near the old school has a rusty iron roof, though the shed itself has been nicely maintained. Poisoned kerbside weeds should always be removed - when dead they can look worse than when growing.

Residential Areas:

The owners of the terraced houses in the main street are to be congratulated on the way they look after their homes. Several individual houses on the outskirts have pleasant front gardens, especially on the side road to the west of the village. 'The Old Home' is a charming traditional two-storied house - a little attention is needed to the attractive metal arch.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces and paving are good. The verges on the Sligo road were, as last year, quite unkempt, but the Tubbercurry side was much better looked after - with the exception of one short section on the left as you come from the south which is hard to account for.

General Impression:

Ballincarrow is a pleasant village to visit, though on closer inspection it still lacks the improving details that would place the village in the higher category of marking which one hopes will be achieved before long. The initiation of a long-term plan, with certain tasks or objectives allotted to each committee member, should help greatly.