

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballintogher**

Ref: **613**

County: **Sligo**

Mark: **221**

Category: **A**

Date: **31/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	35	34
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	221	217

Overall Developmental Approach:

Yours is a genuine 5-Year Plan - congratulations on your initiative, and also on your adherence to it. It is good to observe that maintenance of what has already been done is considered to be important - too often one finds fine initiatives which are not carried through. Next year, when sending your entry form, please mark all sites of importance and name them - for example, it would be hard to miss the churches, but they should still be shown on the map as points of reference to the uninitiated visitor. There is an admirable feeling of community involvement in your entry, and this is reflected in an almost tangible way in the presentation of the village.

The Built Environment:

The principal buildings are well looked after and demonstrate a proper pride in what are the architectural showplaces of the village. The picturesque limestone Church of Ireland church and the handsomely painted Roman Catholic church create a significant vibrancy in their respective locations. The national school impressed with its excellent planting and roadside hedge. On the more domestic level, the shops are all well looked after; this adjudicator was particularly taken by the neat row of colourful shops at the Enterprise Centre, which provides an unexpected impact as you turn the corner out of the main street.

Landscaping:

Very pleasant 'corners' of planting, as well as flowerbeds, raised shrubbery, tubs and windowboxes, were noted throughout. Features like the well-painted pump add visual interest. The open space on the Riverstown Road is a fine amenity enclosed with a good strong wooden fencing - this adjudicator liked the fact that wild flowers such as clover and buttercups were given the right to display themselves.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

A large number of young deciduous trees were very favourably noted. The practical involvement of school children under this heading is something one would like to see emulated elsewhere.

Litter Control:

The recycling area is conveniently situated and will be less obtrusive when planting matures. Judging by the evidence on adjudication day, your litter management programme is clearly working very well - your marking here is exceptionally high in the nationwide context.

Tidiness:

Your candid photograph of the shed near the football pitch shows how conscious you are of all aspects of the competition. The ongoing housing developments inevitably cause an unpleasant disruption, but this will be temporary and has been taken into consideration.

Residential Areas:

Street houses, like their neighbouring small shops, are the truly essential components of the classic Irish village, and it is good to see how individual householders in the main street take pride in their homes. This adjudicator also admired three newish houses with prominently painted rustication at the Drumahair end of the street. Individual homes on the outskirts are also well looked after. While the extensive new housing developments, still to be completed, at present remind one of city suburbs rather than what one would wish for in a rural community, their stone wall boundaries are encouraging; no judgement can be made until it is seen how these homes blend with their environment - it is hoped in this regard that there will be considerable tree and shrub planting.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Surfaces and paving are generally good. Weed-free car parks were noted. (It was wondered why there appeared to be no access to what looks like a gravelled car park beside the school!) Excellent new stone walls were seen in at least three places.

General Impression:

There is a real sense of community achievement in this very pleasant village, of which the residents may be proud. Every good wish for continued progress and success.

Second Round Adjudication:

Ballintogher has made very good progress with developments and it is interesting to see the new and the old styles blending well together in the village. Road surfaces in places will need urgent attention particularly near the Green area. The natural stonewalls are attractive. The well-filled container plantings make the village cheerful. Some stacked cardboard cartons beside the very neatly and cleanly arranged recycle bins are unwelcome. Underground cabling has taken place and this is good – hopefully more will follow. The village is very compact creating a very pleasant community atmosphere.

