

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyliffin**

Ref: **510**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **218**

Category: **C**

Date: **22/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	218	216

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballyliffin is going through a major transitional period at present. The major developments that are underway provide significant challenges to your committee. The Tidy Towns application submitted for 2004 shows that you have taken a pro-active stance in protecting and improving your environment. You are providing leadership and harnessing the resources of the whole community. Your Implementation Study - entitled "Ballyliffin, Here We Go!" - is awaited with interest.

The Built Environment:

The village centre waqs well presented, with business premises and private housing complimenting it. The two hotels are focal points. The lovely mature gardens at the Strand Hotel are striking. The Catholic Church, which was painted white, was impressive, and the grotto was well presented. There was a lovely rose garden and a shrubbery in the grounds of the church. The streetscape was improved by the provision of new benches set in stone. However, it would be further enhanced by the provision of additional hanging baskets and floral arrangements. The major construction work, which is ongoing, and completed developments have been tastefully finished. A significant number of holiday homes are in the course of construction. These, when finished, will have a profound influence on the character of the village. Accordingly, constant vigilance will be needed to ensure that the village atmosphere is not destroyed.

Landscaping:

There are some lovely gardens in private houses, which contribute very well to the atmosphere of the village. Also the extensive shrubbery in the grounds of Rossaor House was impressive. As commented on previously, the beautiful grounds of the Catholic Church and the Strand Hotel catch the eye. There was a neat floral arrangement at the entrance to the new apartments in the village centre. There was an extensive shrubbery at the entrance to the village on the Carndonagh Road. Some nicely landscaped and colourful gardens on the approach roads contribute to the overall presentation of the village. There is a new shrubbery being developed at the new Pollen Beach Hotel. The mature trees at the church and throughout the village add to the overall impression. You should take on board the recommendations contained in last year's report regarding tree planting.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The location of Ballyliffen, with its proximity to the seashore and its rural setting, offers opportunities for the protection and interpretation of wildlife in the area. You have already taken positive steps with your decision to maintain hedgerows as much as possible in their natural state. You should now consider undertaking a major wildlife project and perhaps getting the local school children involved. You should also seek the advice and guidance of a local wildlife expert in this regard.

Litter Control:

There was very little litter in evidence on the day of inspection. Your decision to introduce your own recycling system, with your own specially designed litterbins is a worthy initiative.

Tidiness:

The considerable amount of construction work in progress throughout the village presents difficulties in keeping the village tidy, but these are of a temporary nature and have been taken into consideration. Despite this, the village centre was generally maintained in a neat and tidy condition. Are there any plans to place ESB cables underground? As commented on in last year's report, some fencing on the Carndonagh Road entrance is in need of maintenance.

Residential Areas:

The traditional village houses are part of the character of Ballyliffen and they were maintained to a high standard. Residential areas and houses on all approach roads were well neat and tidy, with neatly landscaped gardens. The newly built Aghrim housing development looked very well, with a nice use of stone in its construction. The wide-open space provided gives it a very roomy effect and now presents some opportunities for planting. Also the new apartment fits very well into the village centre.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Grass verges on the Buncrana approach were neatly trimmed on adjudication day. Resurfacing was in progress on the Carndonagh Road. As commented on last year, stonewalls and hedges are presented to good effect. There was considerable construction along the Pollen Beach Road and footpaths were under construction. As you have already noted, there is scope for tidying up car parks in the village.

General Impression:

The considerable amount of development in Ballyliffen contributes to the economic well being of the village. However, you need to exercise constant care and vigilance to ensure the essential village holiday resort character is not lost or destroyed in the process. You need to work with developers to ensure that new developments complement the village and do not create a disjointed village scape. You should also address these issues in your development plan.