

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinamuck**

Ref: **147**

County: **Longford**

Mark: **182**

Category: **A**

Date: **05/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	25
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	10	9
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	182	176

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballinamuck is welcome to the 2004 National Tidy Towns Competition. The village is located in soft rolling countryside and enjoys excellent scenic views of its hinterland; it is also located on the Tour d'Humbert and so has an important cultural heritage. The information panels regarding your cultural heritage are neatly presented and most informative. Well done on the cooperation you receive from the local community and the various statutory bodies. We note the absence of a plan and would encourage you to submit one next year as it is difficult to make substantial progress in the competition without one. Thank you for your completed application and sketch map.

The Built Environment:

Buildings are presented to a high standard in Ballinamuck and the beautifully painted premises adjoining the "Pikeman Inn" was admired. The Visitor Centre looks especially well also with its carpark beautifully surfaced and landscaped. The church and its boundary walls are a little weather-stained particularly the tower section of the church building, these may need attention over the next year or two.

Landscaping:

The presentation of the Garden of Remembrance is excellent. Well done! Flower displays at

entrances to the village and throughout were colourful and the shrubbery located to the front of a house and defining the boundary to the carpark across from the "Pikeman Inn" was particularly admired. Some of the young trees on the grass verge at the entrance to the village from the northern approach road need to be replaced. The tree located across from the "Ninety Eight Bar" is a fine specimen tree. The wire and post fencing on this entrance to the village might now be planted.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your application indicates a high level of management for your hedgerow which is commendable; this might be taken a stage further with a hedgerow survey to identify wildlife habitats. A site located on the banks of the stream on the left on entering the village from the south could be used to feature wildflowers. There is no indication of work completed for the further amenity development of the river banks.

Litter Control:

Litter control was good throughout the village and on approach roads. Some of the litter bins are in need of greater maintenance as they can look a bit shabby when not properly maintained. If you have an overall litter control strategy or engage in other litter management activities we would be delighted to hear of these as they could earn additional marks for Ballinamuck.

Tidiness:

Road edges in general were somewhat untidy on approach roads and field entrances could have been improved also. Might the committee consider asking property owners to refurbish their field entrances to feature a single village colour. A number of sites were noted as undeveloped. Weeds at the base of a site boundary located beside the Post Office are problematic. These will need to be kept in check.

Residential Areas:

New housing was noted at both the northern and southern entrances to the village from approach roads. Ideally this should mean new hands on board for the Tidy Towns initiative. At a minimum new residents should be encouraged to maintain their boundary walls and roadside areas to boundary walls to a high standard as is the case with most other dwellings within the village and on approach roads. Some thought might be given to a colour scheme for the terrace of residential properties located across from the "Pikeman Inn".

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Verges of approach roads are reasonably well maintained and road surfaces are good. Street furniture such as speed limits signs, nameplates, lamp standards, etc. are of a high standard also, however one speed limit sign at the entrance from the northern approach road was defaced. Wire scape in the village has all but disappeared - congratulations on this, it is a fine achievement. The carparking area across from the "Ninety Eight Bar" could be improved and the corner site located opposite needs some refurbishment to its boundary. Well done on new stone walls, however, avoid small capping stones in favour of larger ones which is more traditional. Road edges along the hill by the Visitor Centre to the Humbert Memorial are particularly bad and fingerposts here for the Croppies Graves and the Graves Meadow are somewhat misleading as there is no indication of public access at this point.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Ballinamuck is favourable and the village is one in which the travelling public and tourists would like to spend some time.

