

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballintubber-Mayo**

Ref: **224**

County: **Mayo**

Mark: **211**

Category: **B**

Date: **20/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	211	209

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank the Secretary for the really excellent documentation submitted with the entry form. All documentation was used on adjudication day and this was most helpful. The brochure pack was especially useful. Ballintubber, as defined by your entry, is a large area that includes a busy main road. This is a major undertaking for your obviously hard working committee of 10 people. However with the co-operation of many other individuals and bodies major achievements have been accomplished. Well done to all involved in the implementation of your twelve year Plan now coming to an end.

When preparing your next Plan which presumably will run from 2005 the adjudicator suggests that you take perhaps a shorter time-frame, perhaps five years. Do consult with the individuals and agencies who support your work. Your problems in regard to changes in FAS strategy are noted and hopefully a way will be found to complete the projects that you had in mind for the various FAS schemes. Tribute however must be paid to FAS for their critical involvement in some many projects in your area of responsibility.

The Built Environment:

The Celtic Furrow Visitor Centre catches the eye with the unusual display on the outside front wall. Ballintubber Abbey is one of the great gems of our Irish heritage and it is so encouraging to note the excellent standard of maintenance that is being maintained here. Your area is so very rich in history

and in more recent times the 1798 connection is most interesting. The Camus property was well presented on adjudication and the surrounds were neat and tidy.

Landscaping:

Excellent planting was noted at the Abbey Car Park and the young trees on the main road will provide a highly impressive display in a few years time. However it was noted that long grass was growing up around some of these trees. A similar situation was noted at the junction to the Abbey where long grass has invaded the old weighing scales display. The provision of new heathers and window boxes was noted. The Mother and Child figure at the Clogher road junction is extremely beautiful but the adjudicator could not find any explanatory plaque here - this would be a most useful addition for 2005. The various panels have been noted. Church island is in itself a highly important project and your strategy here is so correct - to keep this area in it's native woodland state. The row of fine mature trees by the Abbey is a very strong feature of Ballintubber.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Congratulations to the School on their great achievement of Green Flag status and hopefully some of these students will become future Tidy Towns Committee members. The ancient pilgrim's path project was noted and this is a most important aspect of your local heritage.

Litter Control:

Litter control in the village was good on adjudication day though some litter was noted in the main car park, where the new re-surfacing looks well. However white-lining is required. The re-cycling project was noted and hopefully a suitable central location can be found that will not detract in environmental terms.

Tidiness:

Weed growth was noted at the base of stone walls on the main road and this detracts from the otherwise excellent presentation in this area. Also cut grass that had not been removed was noted along some of the verge areas and this looked quite untidy on adjudication day.

Residential Areas:

New housing development was noted and the fact that so many of the older properties in the area are excellently presented. Some fine landscaping presentation were noted at private houses throughout your entry area. The adjudicator shares your concerns about the issue of dereliction.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Work on new footpath developed was underway on adjudication day. The street lights by the Abbey are of excellent design and suite the area really well. Your hedge cutting programme in Spring and Autumn is noted and you have a lot of hedging to manage. The approach from Ballinrobe is very impressive and the verges here look really well - note the adjudicators comments above about taking away cut grass. Some tall grass was noted growing around the young trees and this needs to be trimmed back at each grass cutting. A similar problem was noted at the village sign. Some work is needed on the verges of other approach roads, for example on the Clogher approach road where the standard of presentation is rather uneven.

General Impression:

Your adjudicator had not been in Ballintubber for a number of years and it was a pleasure to return and see the great work that has been done over a number of years. Congratulations to your

Committee and the many individuals and agencies who support what you do.