

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballycastle**

Ref: **606**

County: **Mayo**

Mark: **211**

Category: **B**

Date: **25/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	30
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	29	27
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	211	206

Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome to the 2004 Tidy Towns Competition. Ballycastle is a really beautiful village of great character. The view from the bottom of the street to the trees at the top is really interesting. Progress in the competition will be dependent on everyone working towards the same ends. With this in mind you should prepare a "3 /5 Year rolling Tidy Towns Work Programme". This programme should have the support of the community, local groups other agencies and the County Council. It would therefore guide your Tidy Towns actions for the next three to five years. The Work Programme will detail the Tidy Towns objectives to be achieved by your committee in the years ahead. The preparation of such a Plan that is updated annually is now an essential aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition. You are already working with the Local Authority and that is a very good start.

The Built Environment:

A number of derelict properties were noted in Ballycastle; some of those have been treated by blanking out windows and doors and painting. This should be done with the remainder of the derelict properties if you can get the agreement of the owners involved. The main street is the real heart of Ballycastle. Thankfully it survives probably more or less as built, with few more modern additions. A number of buildings stand out that include O'Grady's and Mary's Cottage Kitchen. However some other buildings need to be repainted. At the School weed growth in the gutters should be removed to avoid damage to the building. The Church was excellently presented. The Shambles is an interesting old property and the adjudicator wonders if there is any restoration/development

potential there that would be in keeping with the rest of the village. At the Graveyard the weed and grass growth should be removed from the road boundary wall and that wall then needs to be painted. The Fire Station is colourful but the nearby Hall will shortly need to be painted.

Landscaping:

The trees on the main street help to anchor the village in it's rural surroundings. A small landscaped area caught the eye at the Dominick Street junction. At the small landscaped area opposite the Hall the kerbing needs to be repainted in it's black and white colour scheme.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Have you considered having a Survey carried out of the flora and fauna in the village area? The results of such a Survey would help your Committee to focus on planting that will encourage wildlife to the area. A logical step following the Survey would be to provide display plaques illustrating the local flora and fauna.

Litter Control:

Litter control in the village was very good on adjudication day, however some litter was noted at the Killala end of the Seaview estate. Congratulations on doing so well in the Local Authority Anti Litter League.

Tidiness:

There were a number of areas that gave cause for concern in regard to tidiness, and these are as follows. Near the 30 MPH sign on the Belderg approach weed growth was noted at the base of the long stone wall, and the poles for the 30 MPH signs might be painted an appropriate colour. There are a number of projecting signs on buildings in the village. Many of them probably have no real commercial necessity. Perhaps in discussion with the owners of the premises concerned some of them can be removed. From Dominick Street the backs of some of the buildings on the Main Street are visible and some look quite untidy. The recycling facility is excellently located and it is a good idea having the low stone wall in front. On the Killala approach road the grass needs to be cut back from the kerbs on the left hand side of the road. The Display Map frame is rusting badly and the map itself has been damaged by damp. This is a useful facility for visitors and hopefully the unit can be replaced for 2005

Residential Areas:

The Seaview estate looked well apart from the litter at the Killala end. It is a pity that it is necessary to park four cars and a small van on the grass, as in time this will flatten the grass and kill it. If parking space is necessary then it is better to sacrifice some of the grassed area and make a formal parking area. Some boundary walls with the road need to be painted. There are some lovely old cottages in Ballycastle and they are an important part of the heritage of the village. An attractive ivy covered house was noted in Dominick Street. On Graveyard Road an interesting property was noted. This is a small brown house where the owner has made great efforts to give the house a very traditional feel externally.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Belderg approach a beautiful landscaped area with seating was noted on the right. However on the left the verge had not been cut recently. The street lights are most appropriate in design terms for the village. On the Graveyard Road verges had not been cut and likewise on the Crossmolina and Sea roads. The Killala approach road was excellently presented but is it really essential to have the four advertising signs on the lefty hand side?

General Impression:

Ballycastle is a very attractive village of great character. It is a village that obviously has a very dedicated Tidy Towns committee, well done to all involved!