

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballycroy**

Ref: **678**

County: **Mayo**

Mark: **178**

Category: **A**

Date: **04/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	28
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	10
Litter Control	40	22	20
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	28
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	178	170

Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome to the 2004 Tidy Towns competition. Ballycroy is a beautiful small village thankfully by-passed for the greater part by the main road. The village sits perfectly in the beautiful surrounding countryside and all developments carried out to date respect this setting. The objectives adopted by your committee are excellent. Your target of increasing the visibility of the Irish language is strongly welcomed. The 2003 - 2005 plan is a most useful document that sets out clear targets for your committee year by year.

The Built Environment:

The new lighting looks very well and the lighting standards are quite suitable for the location. The new stone wall here below the community centre is a really lovely example of the great skill of stone wall building. At Cleary's the plastic sign now looks out of date and perhaps you can discuss this with the owners. A traditional hand written sign would be much more effective for the premises concerned. Excellent stone walls are an important feature of Ballycroy. The Community Centre building was a joy to behold; superbly painted and excellent shrub and flower planting. At the Church the boundary wall with the road needs some minor repairs and repainting. Perhaps there is cut stone underneath that would be worth recovering?

Landscaping:

The tubs along the main road are quite attractive and sufficient in quantity to make an impact. The trees in the village add much to the overall atmosphere. An attractive landscaped area was noted across the road from the sewerage plant and at the foot of the stone wall.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator looks forward to having the results of the Survey at adjudication time in 2005. The erection of wildlife plaques in the area at some of the parking locations would be an excellent project that would follow on from the survey.

Litter Control:

Your various anti litter initiatives have all been noted - the jumbo clean up in April and the ongoing work that you do to make the village so clean. Participation in the County Council Anti Litter League is well worthwhile and do participate again in 2005. On adjudication day litter control was good in the village.

Tidiness:

An untidy site was noted along the main road - perhaps building work is planned here. If no early works are planned perhaps some tidying here could be done for 2005. Metal poles in the village might be painted matt black. An untidy site was noted beside the "1939" building. Otherwise the village was quite tidy. The recycling centre was neatly presented and these centres can indeed become quite untidy if users do not take proper care.

Residential Areas:

Private houses were attractively presented and some nice landscaping was noted. At the small estate of houses opposite the Church the road boundary wall is in need of painting. The grass area here in front of the houses needs to be cut also.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The "Welcome" sign outside Mulranny is far to far away from Ballycroy and should be removed. It can be quite misleading for visitors. The newer sign on the Mulranny side of the village is excellently placed. All the verges on the approach roads have been cut but unfortunately the cut grass has not been removed, and thus creating an untidy look.

General Impression:

Ballycroy is a beautiful small village and your committee is doing great work. Congratulations to all!