

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Beal An Mhuirthead**

Ref: **302**

County: **Mayo**

Mark: **214**

Category: **C**

Date: **25/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	32	30
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>210</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome to the 2004 Tidy Towns Competition. The adjudicator would like to thank you for the very comprehensive documentation and excellent submission. All areas identified on the map were visited on adjudication day. The three Year plan is a useful document that no doubt you will be updating at the end of 2004. When revising the plan try and be as precise as possible in regard to your objectives for each year.

### The Built Environment:

The work on the wire scape has been excellent. In Barrack Street the lighting standards fit in well with the street. An exciting new development is underway in Beal An Mhuirthead. The hotel appears to be making good progress and another major development was noted close to the canal. This all looks good for the future of Beal An Mhuirthead. The front areas of the Industrial Estate looked very colourful with the bright landscaping, however some of the back areas were quite untidy. A good use of colour was noted again at the Fire Station. Work appears to be progressing on the old Church. When making your plans for the future do consider the running costs and other ongoing costs of the Centre that you have in mind. Projecting advertising signs were noted in a number of back lanes in the town centre and this needs attention. The area around the Pier off Barrack Street was in very poor condition even allowing for works underway nearby. A major clean up and tidy up is required here if this water side area is to become a town amenity.

## **Landscaping:**

The boat of Roses on the Ballyglass Road looked well and on the Ballina Road the low shrubs and hedging combined with lovely verges created a good impression of the town. In the centre of Beal An Mhuirthead at the Roundabout the landscaping is some what low key and brighter coloured planting would make a great difference. Excellent landscaping was noted on the Canal banks. Smaller landscaped areas around Beal An Mhuirthead added to a sense of colour.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The Sli na Slainte development should encourage additional walking visitors to the area. The Canal as a wildlife area is extremely important and the adjudicator is aware of the situation here. Hopefully it will be possible at some time in the future to develop fully the wildlife potential of this water area.

## **Litter Control:**

Litter control on adjudication day was reasonably good and some small quantities were noted in the town centre and occasionally on approach roads.

## **Tidiness:**

Traffic and car parking seems to be a major problem. Cars seem to be double and sometimes treble parked on the main street, making it very difficult for visitors. There seems to be parking allowed on the roundabout in the town centre and the adjudicator has never seen that before. There needs to be a traffic management plan for Beal An Mhuirthead as a matter of urgency and a key issue in this should be where car parking can best be allowed and where not. A very untidy area was noted near Brogans and there were road works in progress on adjudication day. The Bottle Banks were well presented. However the practise of allowing the display of retail goods on pavements should not be allowed. It can cause difficulties for those in wheel chairs and for those with impaired visibility. Untidy wire fencing was noted on the Ballina Road and near the Cuan Oisri housing estate.

## **Residential Areas:**

The use of the Irish language for estate names is an excellent development that hopefully will continue. A major new housing development was noted on Barrack Street and hopefully the development includes appropriate landscaping. Some excellent mature gardens caught the eye on the Ballina approach road and there was a great use of colour in some of them. The Cuan Oisri development is beginning to look well, and indeed a lot of new development was noted in this general area and the Shore Road.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

On the Blacksod approach road a long length of concrete post and rail fencing looked rather dull and the adjudicator wonders if you have considered painting this? On the Ballyglass approach the banks had been rather roughly cut, but attractive flat verges were noted closer in towards town - some of these verge areas have been damaged by parking. Some very well presented verges were noted on the Ballina approach.

## **General Impression:**

Your committee seems to be clearly focused on their vision for Beal An Mhuirthead in future years. This is a town with potential but the issue of traffic management is a key issue for the immediate future. Well done to everyone on the local committee.

