

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Belcarra**

Ref: **618**

County: **Mayo**

Mark: **245**

Category: **A**

Date: **31/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	43
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	34
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	245	240

Overall Developmental Approach:

It was a great pleasure to carry out the adjudication of Belcarra for the first time. This is really a most beautiful village where there seems to be such a strong sense of community. Welcome to the 2004 Tidy Towns Competition. It is noted that Mayo County Council are preparing a development plan for Belcarra and hopefully your committee will have an input to this. Thank you for the most comprehensive file of documentation which was most useful on adjudication day.

Trees are one of the dominating features of Belcarra and in combination with beautiful stone walls gives a very unified feel to the village that must be preserved for future generations.

The Built Environment:

The upgrading of the Sports Centre is noted and the new Community Hall looks really well. Beside it the Grotto has a lovely "natural" feeling and is excellently maintained. Hopefully the development of the Henegan's property will be able to get underway without delay. This is a key property in the village and a replacement building that will be in total architectural sympathy with the rest of the village is desirable. Moran's Butchers has an excellent yet simple shop front. The houses on the main street are generally excellently presented with a strong use of good colour's. The street-scape here is good. Another attractive frontage is Cunningham's and the building beside it in brick red. At the new Post Office property the painting of the corrugated iron on the front facade would be a good improvement. The derelict property on the Ballyglass road was noted. Can you get the owner's

permission to carry out some low cost remedial works of a temporary nature on the frontage? This would involve blanking out the windows and door with marine plywood and painting it to replicate windows and door. At the School the hanging baskets and the landscaped area by the roadside are effective and very well presented.

Landscaping:

Really excellent landscaping was noted at the Church car park and at nearby private properties. Another very good landscaped area was noted at the turn to the cemetery. There are many other excellent examples of how you have handled landscaping in Belcarra. Well done!

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river side walk to the eviction cottage is an excellent amenity and the information board at the walk entrance is a good idea. The study that you have commissioned is an excellent move and this will enable you to plan future developments along the river walk with the true needs of wildlife in mind. The local walks development as indicated on the map supplied to the adjudicator is an excellent way of getting visitors to stay a little longer in your community.

Litter Control:

Litter control on adjudication day was really quite good. Do you involve the School in your anti litter campaigns? If not then you should consider getting them involved with the cooperation of the teachers. Do you have a student representative on your Tidy Towns Committee?

Tidiness:

Belcarra on adjudication day was quite tidy. The fine stone walls have been breached by the individual housing developments on the approaches to the village. These "gaps" must be properly finished off and any additional walls that are required should be faced in matching stone. This is really of crucial importance. Some weed growth was noted in the gutter at the roadside outside the Church.

Residential Areas:

The majority of residential properties were excellently presented and many freshly painted. New housing development on the Ballyglass road was noted. Hopefully this will include appropriate landscaping.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Your village signs are very unusual and very attractive. All the approach roads give a fine first impression of Belcarra. The low stone walls are a strong feature on these approaches. The many trees as you approach the village are also highly attractive.

General Impression:

Congratulations to your Tidy Towns Committee and all involved in the good work for Belcarra. The village is really looking extremely well.

Second Round Adjudication:

For the size of the village there is a substantial amount of new development works in progress. Hopefully by next year at least a start will have been made on the prominent site at the junction. Litter was not a problem but there was a crisp bag at the otherwise well presented water pump. The

stone walls on the approach roads were admired but tall weed growth appearing from behind should be regularly cut back. Kerbside weeds were evident along by the Church and on the Castlebar Road. The speed limit signs including poles were in need of attention. On the other hand all the improvement works outlined in your submission and commented on above are highly commended. The many mature trees are a valuable legacy and contribute greatly to the village ambiance.