

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bonniconlon**

Ref: **145**

County: **Mayo**

Mark: **211**

Category: **A**

Date: **26/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	30
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	32	30
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>205</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome to the 2004 Tidy Towns Competition. It was a pleasure for your adjudicator to visit your lovely village on a warm June day. It is encouraging to see that you appear to have significant local support for your work and that you are working closely with all the appropriate agencies. Thank you for the 2003 - 2008 Tidy Towns Plan - a useful document that will guide the work of your committee. When next updating this plan for 2005 it would be helpful for you to show the objectives that you will have for each year.

### The Built Environment:

The various buildings in Bonniconlon are generally well presented. The Church looked especially well as did a number of the private houses in the village centre. Derelict buildings are a difficulty. However unfortunately it can take a long time to resolve this problem building by building. An attractive stone premises caught the eye opposite the black and white Boyle sign. At first the adjudicator thought that the GAA road boundary wall was going to be a huge disappointment in presentation terms. However the facing of this wall in natural stone had just begun and this will transform this whole area. Well done to the GAA and all involved in this project. The rear of the "Judges" premises looked quite neat and tidy.

### Landscaping:

The pruning back of overgrown shrubs at the School was noted and the various tubs and window boxes looked really well. The grass at the village name sign on the Ballina approach road looked somewhat patchy. Presumably this grass has just been sown and it awaits maturity. On the Tobercurry road the fine white wall with the flower tubs was quite impressive. The landscaping at the Church and School was exceptional and together with the flags added a great first impression of the village on the approach from Ballina.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The plan to enhance the river is noted and to make sure that you submit a copy of this with your entry for 2005. 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:**

Congratulations on achieving 1st prize in the Mayo Anti Litter League. This is not surprising to the adjudicator because on adjudication day litter control was very good. It is a pity that we did not have details of your anti litter campaign that is obviously so successful. Well done to everyone involved!

### **Tidiness:**

On the Ballina approach road the long road boundary wall on the left needs to be painted. Five projecting signs were noted on one premises and three on another. Are these really essential in true commercial terms or could the owners agree to remove them? The plastic sign at "The Village Tavern" does not do justice to this premises and again perhaps the owner might consider replacing it with a traditional or modern hand lettered sign. Once again the recycling area was neat and tidy and excellently presented in every way.

### **Residential Areas:**

In general, residential properties were presented to a very high standard, many with excellent mature landscaping of trees and shrubs. The Ballina approach road is a case in point. Quite a lot of new development was noted and hopefully these developments will include appropriate landscaping. Most of the private houses in the village centre were excellently presented.

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

The new lighting poles look well and the bilingual sign posting is warmly welcomed. The Ballina approach road looked well with landscaping and the display of daisies. On the Attymass approach the long white wall needs repainting. The plants here looked well and helped to break up the long run of the wall. On the Inishcrone and Tobercurry approach roads little recent work appears to have been done.

### **General Impression:**

Bonniconlon is a really lovely village that has the potential to do well in the competition in future years.