

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballivor**

Ref: **287**

County: **Meath**

Mark: **208**

Category: **C**

Date: **08/01/2004**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2004 | Mark Awarded 2003 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 40 | |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 27 | |
| Landscaping | 40 | 30 | |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 17 | |
| Litter Control | 40 | 30 | |
| Tidiness | 20 | 14 | |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 19 | |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 24 | |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 208 | |

Overall Developmental Approach:

It was disappointing to note that you feel you have a lack of practical support for your good work. Do read the Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas on how to improve this situation! Your high level of financial support is to be commended. Problems with vandalism are indeed disappointing and hopefully the posting of the new Garda will improve this situation. Your three to five year work programme is most comprehensive. Perhaps for next year's competition you could include a map of a better quality of reproduction? Unfortunately, the photocopy was quite pale, making it difficult to read. Colour coding would also help in this regard.

The Built Environment:

Do ensure that render isn't removed from vernacular street houses and buildings. The Heritage Council is quite concerned in this regard, as traditional street buildings were originally meant to be rendered. The public and commercial premises of the town generally looked well cared for on the day. Of note, was the Credit Union, Lenihan's Pub, Centra, the Pharmacy and the Coachman's. The Catholic Church and Church of Ireland were greatly admired situated, as they are, centrally in the town and directly opposite each other on the main street. However, the railings to the former and the gates to the latter will need painting before next year's competition. Newman's Butcher's in stone, with its traditional style awning looked extremely jaunty on the day. The National School looked well and its grounds were well maintained. However, the boundary wall will need painting before next year's competition. In relation to St. Kinneth's Church of Ireland, its development is

eagerly awaited.

Landscaping:

The standard in this category of the competition could be improved upon. The trees along the main street are maturing nicely and individual premises had provided window boxes and tubs. However, do concentrate on more permanent planting of trees and shrubs in order to get year round effect.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

In your submission you mention a partial clean up of the woods area. Do get local school children involved to draw up a map and guide book of areas of wildlife interest in their locality. The Tidy Towns Handbook will give you clues for developing this aspect of the competition further. ENFO also supply a number of very worthwhile publications which you should read. Also you could get local experts involved in giving you information about the wildlife habitats in the locality.

Litter Control:

The standard in this category of the competition was generally quite good for a town of Ballivor's size. Your daily clean ups are evidently paying dividends.

Tidiness:

The standard in this category of the competition was generally quite good apart from items and issues mentioned elsewhere in this report.

Residential Areas:

There are a vast number of housing estates springing up all over the general vicinity, including the approach roads. Do ensure that not only the architectural quality of these houses is in keeping with a traditional Irish town but also that they are sensitively landscaped in order to "finish them off" well and ensure that they mature nicely. In a number of cases grass verges have yet to take. In relation to more mature developments, St. Oliver's Park looked fine and the attractive sheltered housing on the Mullingar Road, with its traditional cottage style gardens and landscaping was greatly admired. The Avenue Housing Estate on the Mullingar Road with its brick pier boundary wall and rendered in-fill panels should really be painted to the plasterwork as, at the moment, it appears quite shabby and is quite dominant due to its height.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The adjudicator noted the sewerage scheme taking place which obviously effects the condition of roads. The Mullingar Road affords the visitor an attractive approach to the town with its mature overhanging trees forming an entrance canopy. Wild roses were noted to the hedgerows and verges along this road were quite good. Along the Kinnegad Road, the standard was rather less consistent, with quite weedy kerbsides evident. Street furniture was generally to a reasonable standard.

General Impression:

Ballivor is an attractive busy town whose residents show an obvious care in its future.