

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bealnamulla**

Ref: **113**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **200**

Category: **A**

Date: **03/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	200	195

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you very much for your Tidy Towns application, and the helpful map which you supplied. As the adjudicator advised last year, you should draw up a simple 3 to 5 year plan for your Tidy Towns efforts. This will give you clear goals throughout the year, and should also help encourage more members of the community to take part. In your application form, it would be helpful if you could outline the projects and activities you have undertaken under each heading during the past year as it would help earn you extra points. I enjoyed my visit to Bealnamulla, and the village looked very attractive on the day of adjudication.

The Built Environment:

The majority of buildings in Bealnamulla are residential, and many are newly built. The Mill Bar looked very attractive with its ivy, smart picnic tables and flower displays. The school was immaculate and a credit to the community. The Texaco station has been completed since last year's adjudication and was well presented with an attractive stone wall at the front of the forecourt. There was one derelict building in the village centre which looked as if it was awaiting planning permission.

Landscaping:

Overall, the standard of landscaping in Bealnamulla was very good. The area in front of the school really caught the eye with shrubs, trees, flowers, nicely painted pumps and magnificent lighting with hanging baskets. The landscaping on approach roads was also good. On the approach from Athlone, there were beautiful red roses, shrubs on both sides of the road and the grass verges were well kept. I concur with last year's adjudicator who suggested planting trees on the left hand side of the road when you enter the village from Athleague to hide the machinery on the hill. The centre of the village between The Mill pub and the pitch and putt course also looked well with shrubs, benches and well cut grass verges. There were also very attractive flower displays in the grounds of the school.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

I am not aware of any projects undertaken to survey the wildlife of the area. However, as suggested in last year's report, perhaps you could undertake a survey of the local stream and eventually develop it as a recreational amenity for the town. I noticed that the land on one side of the stream is currently for sale, so it would be important to approach the new owner to ensure a feature is made of this natural amenity.

Litter Control:

There was no evidence of litter on the day of adjudication - well done. There was no litter bin at the Texaco garage. You obviously monitor the litter very well - please include details of your litter management activities in the application form next time as it can earn you extra points.

Tidiness:

The village looked very tidy apart from ongoing building work at new developments and a derelict building in the village centre. There were a number of hand painted signs on the footpath leading to the Texaco station which were not ideal. There was little evidence of weed growth on footpaths and at walls.

Residential Areas:

The new estate on the side road near The Mill Bar was well kept with neat grass areas and young trees. The new estate across the road from the Mill Bar also looked well, with some very well kept individual houses. In general, the new estates should pay attention to weeds growing on footpaths and the finishing of boundary walls.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The new stone name signs for the village looked very well, as did the planting around them. Some areas of the road that could be resurfaced include the hard shoulder opposite The Mill Bar, the car park outside the school, and the side road by the Mill Bar leading to the new housing estate. The stone wall on the right hand side after you pass the Mill Bar on the right was very attractive and very well kept. The car park beside the Mill Bar looked well with its low stone wall and colourful flowers.

General Impression:

Bealnamulla is a very pretty village, and its location close to Athlone will mean a lot more construction over the next few years. Your efforts to improve the village are adding to its appeal and we look forward to seeing how your village develops over the next few years. The challenge will be to encourage new residents and developments to enter into the spirit of Tidy Towns as you have done.

