

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinalack**

Ref: **457**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **184**

Category: **B**

Date: **22/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	
The Built Environment	40	20	
Landscaping	40	23	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	
Litter Control	40	26	
Tidiness	20	13	
Residential Areas	30	19	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	
General Impression	10	6	
TOTAL MARK	300	184	

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Ballinalack to the competition. Your application, referenced map and plan were particularly helpful. It is good to see that the committee are focussed and have identified a number of areas in need of attention. The news letter is an excellent way of communicating with local residents and will help build support and interest. Well done. The good working relationship which has been developed with residents and public bodies will stand to you as the village is further developed. Good Work!

The Built Environment:

In general, the built environment looks well. The very busy Texaco Filling Station is well presented despite a high volume of traffic. The Dutch Furniture building and sign on the left as you approach the village is disappointing and spoils the otherwise neat appearance of the built environment. The weedy and unkempt front is not a very attractive first impression for the visitor from the Sligo road.

Landscaping:

It is good to see from your plan that more landscaping will be done in the village. A link of some description, e.g. lime trees or another single species, is an excellent means of linking or consolidating the village. It can also look very impressive. The addition of colour through flowering

baskets/pots is always attractive. Again, the theme works very well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator looks forward to hearing more on your wildlife/ angling plans as they develop and mature. Good luck with this interesting project.

Litter Control:

Unfortunately, there was some litter present on the day of inspection. The difficulties of the N4 are noted in your battle with litter from passing traffic. Try to involve local school children more in this area.

Tidiness:

Overall the village looks nice and tidy, apart from the Dutch Furniture development area. The bench in the centre of the village needs repair. To date your plan appears to be working well for this category of the competition.

Residential Areas:

Residential Areas in Ballinalack are well presented for the most part. The tasteful completion of the new development in the centre of the village will be a welcome addition to this category and could help gain valuable marks. Don't forget to clear away dead weeds and cut grass!

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Sligo approach road has nice neat grass verges. The bridge area is in need of some more attention and a little more effort in relation to overgrowth and new planting could see it developed into a nice feature for the village. The Mullingar approach road looks well; the marigolds under the trees on the left hand side are particularly effective and very attractive. The walled area in front of the hayshed will look nice when screened with suitable flora.

General Impression:

Ballinalack is a very neat village for the most part. Some focus on the above areas could see the village doing very well in the competition in the coming years. Continued good work!