

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballykeeran**

Ref: **255**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **178**

Category: **A**

Date: **16/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	28
The Built Environment	40	24	23
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	27	24
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	24	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	17
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	178	167

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your completed application form, plan and maps. It is good to hear Ballykeeran has been included in the 2004 village renewal programme and to see from your plan that regular liaison takes place with the village FAS worker. The Committee appears to be committed to improving marks in all areas in the competition - keep up the good work and increased local interest will follow!

The Built Environment:

The Dog and Duck as a focal building in the village looks very well, the carpark unfortunately still needs some attention in terms of weed control. The planted bank looks very well though and is a great improvement. Some of the walls in front of houses on approach road from Athlone need attention, although it must be difficult to maintain these with the level of passing traffic. Perhaps some ivy/suitable flora would look well and blend nicely with the lush green surrounds.

Landscaping:

The picnic area, as identified in the submitted proposals, has plenty of opportunity - some improvement has already been noted here, well done! The mature wooded areas on the lower Glasson road look very well and the adjudicator looks forward to the proposed Ballymahon road improvements.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have submitted an interesting proposal in relation to identifying protected species and providing information boards at the picnic area. We look forward to seeing this initiative develop. Perhaps a similarly themed photo competition would help raise the profile of this initiative and generate interest?

Litter Control:

No litter was evident on the day of adjudication and the removal of the recycling centre from the Athlone approach road to a new location was certainly a welcome move in terms of one's initial impression on arrival into the village of Ballykeeran.

Tidiness:

The village looked quite tidy overall apart from the Ballymahon approach road and the proposed work for this area was noted. The grass verges and the junction area need some attention but a general improvement all round is evident.

Residential Areas:

The residential areas are well presented for the most part. Further enhancement of the walls/fronts may be encouraged through some form of competition. The issue of tenants rather than owner occupier is noted.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The village renewal scheme funding will hopefully assist with the improvement of the Ballymahon approach road. There were major improvement in relation to the recycling/phone booth area. Well done to all involved!

General Impression:

Ballykeeran is a very attractive rural village with some lovely mature trees. Continued efforts should see the village gaining valuable marks as the various elements of the plan are implemented.