

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballymore**

Ref: **593**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **205**

Category: **B**

Date: **16/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	31
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	28	27
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	205	203

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank the committee for the completed application form and map. The approach to development is clearly well thought out and problem areas acknowledged and addressed. Perhaps this type of information could be formulated into an overall plan with longer term objectives. It would be very useful during adjudication and would also help to focus the committee and wider community on the long term vision for Ballymore. We look forward to progress in relation to the Lake Sedy amenity area, it will be a wonderful addition to the village.

The Built Environment:

It is great to see that some of the derelict sites are now up for sale as they have been a problem for the village in the past. The old Garda Barracks is still a cause for concern and is in very bad repair, a fact that is heightened by the neatness of the new one which sits alongside. The Midland Health Board building is most definitely in need of attention. The stone building opposite the school and pub is very impressive - the marigolds in the window boxes were very eye catching. The School is extremely well kept and the Church and cemetery looked very well.

Landscaping:

The grass area and trees looked magnificent. It is noted that the village now only has one FAS

worker, and the overall maintenance is therefore to be commended. Generally the shrubs in the stone walled circular features have become overgrown and need to be cut back, Perhaps the addition of some brightly flowering shrubs would enhance their overall appeal. The use of red geraniums in the window boxes and along the hedging is very effective-well done. Perhaps the geranium theme could be developed throughout the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Delighted to see no chemical sprays are being used, and again the neatness of the verges/kerbside areas is to be commended. The lakeshore and GAA park area will be a huge asset to the community and offer loads of potential for improvement under this category. It is good to see a sub-committee has been formed and funding is being sought.

Litter Control:

Little or no litter was in evidence on the day of inspection and the continuous green bin theme noted- a nice rural touch. Considering the length of the village, the absence of litter is impressive. It is great to see the school and local residents involved. Good Work!

Tidiness:

Generally the village looks very tidy, which is again commendable considering its length and the single FAS employee.

Residential Areas:

The houses along the Market Hill area were an abundance of colour with wonderful baskets. Unfortunately the Ballymore Housing Scheme behind it was in a poor state; lawns and green areas were overgrown and unsightly. Otherwise, most residences were very nicely presented and local pride evident.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Verges were very well kept and grass cutting was in evidence on the day of inspection. Good to see the new speed signs on the approach roads from Mullingar and Athlone. The Moyvore approach road still needs some attention. One of the speed signs was missing, while the other was in very poor condition. The Ballymore signs looked very well and the flowers in front are a nice idea and well maintained. The white welcome signs need cleaning or replacing, as did the school sign in the centre of the town. There is an area just before the speed signs from the Athlone approach road side which could possibly be planted as a nice welcoming feature.

General Impression:

Ballymore still has a lot of potential - certainly the County Council's assistance will be needed to address some of the issues, e.g. signposts and the local authority housing estate. Well done so far and continued good work!