

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballynacargy**

Ref: **111**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **208**

Category: **B**

Date: **21/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	22	21
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	208	204

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your application and map. While good detail was given in the application form, a development plan or even a one page synopsis of objectives would be very useful in focussing on-going development. It is great to see the ongoing commitment and involvement of locals, voluntary groups and statutory bodies. Well done.

The Built Environment:

The built environment is improving every year. The award winning Family Resource Centre is a lovely addition to the main street area. Halligans, Connolly Racing and Munnellys all look wonderful. The Church grounds are very well maintained however the Midland Health Board building could do with some weed control. The shop on the corner in main street had lovely wheelbarrows of flowers on display the day of adjudication. It is hoped the derelict/unused buildings along the canal will be restored - will one of these be used for the proposed toilet block? The Take Away window at the end of the main street needs an overhaul.

Landscaping:

On the day of inspection, there was plenty of activity in Ballynacargy with grass cutting underway around the canal area, which is looking particularly well. Unfortunately in some areas the cut grass

had not been collected from verges and had begun to rot. This was particularly noticeable on the Mullingar approach. Overall the existing landscaping is well maintained and maturing well. The linking of the entire village by single species trees would really help to bring all out-lying areas together.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There were plenty of ducks waiting to be fed in the harbour on the day of inspection! The adjudicator looks forward to receiving more details on wildlife/natural amenities plans. Ballynacargy, particularly with the canal, has plenty of scope to gain valuable marks in this section. As suggested last year, interpretation boards should be considered.

Litter Control:

Overall little or no litter was evident on the day of inspection apart from directly in front of the National School on the Rathowen Road. This was very disappointing - are the local children involved in the Tidy Towns or any environmental school projects such as An Taisce's Green Flag. The Recycling area had some dumped bags behind it - which was a shame. Some litter had been thrown or had travelled upstream into the canal lock area- it was hopefully about to be dealt with by the FAS workers as they were at the scene of crime on the day of adjudication! The FAS involvement and commitment in relation to the battle against litter is good to see. Well done! Plenty of bins - all had been emptied.

Tidiness:

Overall, a very nice tidy village with loads of potential to gain valuable marks in the coming years. Don't forget to gather cut grass. Keep up the good work!

Residential Areas:

Very well presented for the most part - most residents have gone to the trouble of embellishing their premises with flowering baskets/window boxes - well done! The estate opposite the National School on the Rathowen Road has a mixture of some finely presented fronts while others unfortunately in need some immediate attention. The Ballinacargy Housing Scheme looks very well and is a credit to its residents.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Mullingar approach road looks very well. The shrubs planted on the bank of this approach road really enhance one's arrival into the village. The Rathowen road could do with a little attention in relation to verges and cut grass but overall approach roads and back areas were well presented.

General Impression:

Ballynacargy is a very pleasant village with loads of potential to score very highly. A lot of good work has been done to date, and the rewards are showing. Work now on getting a plan together before next year's competition and addressing the few trouble spots. Well done to all involved!