

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballineen-Enniskeane**

Ref: **526**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **203**

Category: **B**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	203	203

Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Enniskean-Ballineen looked well on adjudication day with its colourful flower displays lining the Main Street and its nicely painted buildings. Thank you for your submission which included a plan summary. We appreciate the task involved in maintaining such a large area to the standards that has been achieved, particularly if there are no young people coming on board the Tidy Towns effort and there is only one council worker. What has been achieved for your lovely village to date is commendable given the restrictions of time, labour and funding. Try not to get too discouraged regarding vandalism, it is a problem faced by many communities and all that can be done is to repair the damage and hope they will tire of it. Your initiative of circulating people with the church bulletin is excellent and it is good to note that this doesn't cost a lot of money. Well done on your fundraising activities and the prize money achieved for the Inter-Village Litter Challenge.

The Built Environment:

The majority of buildings were nicely presented and the church and its grounds occupying an elevated site was particularly admired. The graveyard here was neat. Shopfronts in Ballineen which were admired include Tangles and Liam O'Foghlú. Both the Village Inn and the Centra looked well as did Lordans, the Post Office, the Garda station, the Olympic Tavern and the Dry Cleaners to mention but a few. The garage located on the opposite side of the road to the school needs upgrading to its boundary and its general curtilage area. The curtilage area of both the Gerry Collins

Motors and O'Mahoney's Petrol Station were quite well presented. Keep up the effort to have the outsized plastic neon sign on the Lantern fast food premises replaced with more attractive and appropriate signage.

Landscaping:

Hanging baskets on the bridge were especially admired and formed a good first impression of Enniskeen - Ballineen, however the negative visual impact of the saw mills just beyond was very strong. Perhaps some thought could be given to remedial landscaping here to at least minimise the impact. Stands of mature trees were noted at a variety of locations in both villages and on approach roads and are a valuable legacy from previous generations. Young trees appear to be establishing themselves well and hopefully will form a legacy for generations to come. The ESB utility station looks dreadful in respect of its roadside boundary and the circulation area inside. Remedial treatment is recommended at this site also. The entrance from the Dunmanway Road was admired and the flower cart and milk churn and stone here are nice touches to an already good presentation. The Ból Cuman na hEireann Memorial is attractively landscaped as are the school grounds. Flower displays in tubs, hanging baskets, window boxes etc., which lined the street, particularly towards the Ballineen end were admired for their colour and profusion.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done on your chemical free approach to weed control. It is important that wildlife habitats are identified so that protective measures can be put in place in the event of further construction work and development in Enniskeen - Ballineen. Perhaps the school could be involved in a wildlife survey? Your wildlife officer in the local authority can be of assistance in this area.

Litter Control:

Congratulations on your success two years in a row in the inter-village litter challenge. Litter control was excellent on the day of adjudication, well done. We would be more than interested to have details of your other regular litter control activities, and details of your overall litter management strategy. Have you considered a litter survey to identify specific types of litter? This can be very useful.

Tidiness:

The strong negative visual impact of the saw mills at the entrance to the town cannot be over emphasised and borders on devastation rather than a problem of tidiness. Good treatment to a derelict premises near the bridge has been noted. A corrugated roof at the junction with the Main Street is a little unsightly and a site beside a garage which accommodates a number of derelict vehicles at the Dunmanway end of the village could be better enclosed if these cars are to remain. Well done on the bottle bank, it was neatly presented.

Residential Areas:

The majority of buildings are beautifully painted in respect of premises and roadside boundary walls, however a number of poor roadside areas to boundary walls have been noted. Continue to encourage residents to take responsibility for these areas also. A number of gardens were admired and in particular the garden of the Carrig Bán premises. An unfinished boundary to two dwellings located across from the church together with poor roadside areas to boundary walls are problematic under this heading given their location. Derriga Crescent was neatly presented. Two storey on street dwellings at the Ballineen end of the village look quite well, however these is a mixed standard of presentation of boundary walls in Ballineen. Well done on encouraging residents to maintain kerbs in their own areas and to maintain their own areas litter free.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The entrance to Enniskeen-Ballineen from the Clonakilty Road was overgrown. The area around the nameplate appeared to have been recently cut, however these had not been removed. The bridge was a little weather stained. Verges of other roads were presented to a mixed standard with some being trimmed to their roadside edge and left natural to the inside edge. This is perfectly acceptable and looks quite well. Shoulder high field boundaries also appear to have been recently cut however the scorched cuttings were a little unsightly. Stretches of stone wall should be revealed at intervals and highlighted as a feature of the village. The road surface on the Main Street is good as is the footpath. No road markings were noted which would suggest that this work has been recently completed and will soon be reinstated. The car park in the village centre enjoyed an excellent presentation and the Grainger Saw Mills arched entrance is a nice touch. The namestone is an attractive feature, however it was nice to see the old style nameplate still in place also. The wirescape looks particularly bad, especially at the crossroads and the service pole is problematic also.

General Impression:

Enniskeen-Ballineen is an attractive village on a busy road and has managed to maintain a high standard of presentation in recent years. Given the restraints of labour, funding and a shortage of young people, this is no small achievement.

Second Round Adjudication: