

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinamuck**

Ref: **100**

County: **Longford**

Mark: **185**

Category: **A**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	10
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	185	182

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballinamuck is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. The view of the church tower and the Pike Man's Inn together with the wirescape free streetscape and attractive lamp standards from the approach road into Ballinamuck are visually pleasing and generate an air of anticipation for the visitor. The village is well located on the important Tour d'Humbert and is close to a large number of lakes. Ballinamuck has a lot to offer and you should set about developing your important assets to take you to the next level in the Competition. We look forward to receiving your three/five year plan next year.

The Built Environment:

McNally Engineering is beautifully presented in respect of the main premises together with out buildings, its curtilage area, its boundary walls and its wonderful hand painted hanging sign. The Pike Man's Inn is excellent in presentation also. The removal of the two beer signs is recommended. The Visitors Centre is beautifully presented together with its carpark. The church tower and its boundary wall looked a little weather stained and a number of corrugated roofs are in need of refurbishment. The thatched bar and restaurant (Ninety Eight Bar) were admired. We wish the Development Association every success in their plans for a water feature at the Visitors Centre.

Landscaping:

Mature trees and hedgerow at the crossroads at the thatched bar and restaurant continue to be impressive. The 1798 Garden of Remembrance has been considered for a landscape award and the gates here were beautifully painted in black and gold. Young trees on grass verges are maturing well and grass verges are also being nicely maintained. Some flower troughs without planting were noted located just before the bridge.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done on the effective management of your hedgerow in relation to its importance for wildlife. A stretch of wire and post fencing leading to the bridge could be planted with hedgerow and maintained free of all the weeds that were there on adjudication day. Some project might be undertaken in relation to the habitats offered by the small stream. Wildflowers were admired, perhaps a wildlife trail could be developed to the woods and surrounding hills or indeed walks to the lakeshore could be developed to Slí na Sláinte standard.

Litter Control:

Well done on an excellent presentation again this year, although the road surface did need a good sweeping as there was a lot of mud about. No doubt this is due to the extensive building works in progress in the village. Do keep us informed of your litter control activities and your overall litter management strategy as this can be a source of additional marks.

Tidiness:

A number of derelict / vacant premises have been noted including some outbuildings at the bridge. A premises at the thatched pub at the crossroads is also in need of attention. Ensure that all building materials are removed and that all boundary treatment is finished to a high standard upon the completion of construction work.

Residential Areas:

Congratulations on the addition of new dwellings, particularly those just inside the nameplate. Encourage residents to take responsibility for the roadside area to their boundary walls; at the time of adjudication these featured gravel and weeds. They would look very nice if they were grassed. A dwelling beside the Visitors Centre was admired again this year in respect of its landscaping to its roadside boundary. We note the planning application to redevelop part of a terrace of dwellings for use as supermarket office and staff facility and a further residential development with work in progress across from the Garden of Remembrance. This development of twenty five dwellings will increase the size of the village and the population dramatically and great care should be taken to involve your new neighbours in the life of the community and in the Tidy Towns effort. The house and garden located beside the Garden of Remembrance was admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roadside verges of approach roads are presented to a mixed standard. Some had been recently cut but the cuttings had not been collected. Others were overgrown, some showed a little litter. Potholes were noted at a number of locations also. The carpark at the Ninety Eight bar is in need of resurfacing and landscaping. The stone bridge was neatly presented and street furniture looked well, particularly new lampstandards. It is suggested that you include the Ceard Scoil at the crossroads within the limits of the village and locate a nameplate or namestone at the crossroads and landscape this area also. Verges should then be maintained to the village centre.

General Impression:

Well done on another fine presentation. Ballinamuck looked beautiful on the day of adjudication.

The village is set to grow in the immediate term future and this will present the committee with a challenge to maintain the standards achieved to date. We look forward to further adjudications.