

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballintubber-Roscommon**

Ref: **754**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **247**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	36	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	20
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	247	241

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballintubber is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your detailed submission. A visit to your lovely village, under any circumstances, is always rewarded. Ballintubber is set in lush pasturelands and enjoys excellent views of the surrounding countryside. On approaching the village from the elevated Ballymoe Road, and seeing it set against low hills with their attractive field patterns, one gets a feeling of great anticipation on arriving. This is enhanced when one encounters the beautifully painted yellow and green corner shop at the crossroads and the rear facade of Kennys.

The Built Environment:

Properties in the village centre, which form the crossroads, are all beautifully painted and presented; well done to all concerned. Buildings at the top of the village looking down to the castle had been freshly whitewashed. The Post Office was attractively presented also and the colour scheme of maroon and magnolia on the TF Garvey premises was admired. The Mike Holland Auctioneers premises and the Tyres outlet located behind also enjoyed a standard of excellence in their presentation. Well done under this heading.

Landscaping:

The Michael Holland Memorial Park is beautifully landscaped and executed and presented to the highest standard and has been considered for the landscaping award. In fact landscaping throughout the village is to a high standard. The landscaping to the site beside Garvey's pub looked well and indeed verges on the N60 were beautifully presented as was the picnic site near the castle. Container planting was both colourful and profuse.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildlife interpretive panel at the castle is most informative and attractive and offers a new dimension to the castle for the visitor. The wildlife sanctuary has also been noted and Ballintubber has been considered for the wildlife award. The burial grounds are neatly presented, the gates to the adjacent yard here should be kept closed for greater enclosure. Might it be possible to signpost a section of the Suck Valley Walk from the village to Slí na Sláinte standards?

Litter Control:

Well done on litter control which was excellent at the time of adjudication. The involvement of school children has been most effective. The designation of the school as a Green Flag school is a fine achievement and we look forward to seeing this next year.

Tidiness:

The recycling point is being beautifully maintained and is indeed a most attractive development. It has been considered for the new Repak award. The majority of areas and side areas within Ballintubber are well presented.

Residential Areas:

Dwellings on the main street of the village are beautifully presented as always and the garden to the dwelling located to the rear of the J.C. Daly shopfront was particularly admired for its colourful profusion of planting and also its seasonal interest. The shaped green roadside boundary to a dwelling by the nameplate on the Castleplunkett Road was also admired. Work was in progress at a new estate and a site with three two-bedroomed bungalows at the Bring Bank had been noted also. Work in progress has been observed for bungalows on the Ballymoe Road. No doubt when all works are completed these properties will enjoy the excellence in presentation which has been achieved for older properties.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Stretches of stone wall create a visually pleasing enclosure to fields and other sites and the stretch of wall along the road by the castle (and indeed in many other locations) and on other approach roads was admired. The surface of footpaths is good as are road surfaces in general. The church car park was particularly admired for the high quality of its surface, clearly designated car parking spaces and landscaping. Road signage is of a high standard and name stones were admired. Well done on a good overall presentation under this heading.

General Impression:

Ballintubber is a beautiful village where the commitment and involvement of the community to their environment is evident.

Second Round Adjudication:

The village of Ballintubber is a most attractive one. The standard of litter control on the day was good with a single paper and cup being noted in different locations. Landscaped spaces were

beautifully maintained throughout the village. The Michael Holland Memorial Park and new fountain were as well maintained as ever, as was the picnic area adjacent to the castle. The two grottos were admired but the graveyard appeared somewhat inconsistent in its appearance. Perhaps you should consider the promotion and presentation of the well after which the village is named? The church and school were well maintained. On the day its presence was somewhat imperceptible - it is not at all obvious to a visitor where exactly it can be found, despite the fingerpost sign. There was some attractive Celtic Revival plasterwork noted to a house in the village centre and its retention is to be commended. The drafting of a three to five year work programme might help to clarify your plans for the future of the village. You should also consider getting the local schoolchildren involved in helping with your future wildlife projects, following their Green Schools success! There is a long stretch of roadside to be maintained and the residents and Tidy Towns Association of Ballintubber have achieved this to great effect!