

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyforan**

Ref: **304**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **193**

Category: **A**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	25
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	193	188

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballyforan is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your excellent submission which included details of your objectives covering the next few years. We are particularly interested in the proposed development of the River Suck facilities from Mount Talbot through Ballyforan village to Derrycahill, which involves a number of communities working together. We wish you well in implementation and look forward to the fruits of your work. Is there an opportunity to develop a heritage feature in relation to Claremount House? Your other objectives have been noted and have been referred to under appropriate heading.

The Built Environment:

Most buildings are quite well presented. The Top Service Station was neatly presented in the respect of its forecourt and both the Garda station and the Health Centre looked quite well also. The dated plastic neon sign should be removed from the Big Apple pub. The Hook and Tackle Bar and Lounge was quite well presented to its roadside facade but its gable wall was in urgent need of refurbishment. The Hopes and Dreams playschool premises is looking a little weatherstained and could be improved. The school looks well, particularly with tree planting within its curtilage. The new Maureen Foodstore and the new Credit Union building were admired. The church was neatly presented to its elevation overlooking the Fair Green, however it was a little colourless here, perhaps some planting would be appropriate, landscaping to its rear has been noted.

Landscaping:

The Fair Green is neatly enclosed behind a stone wall but is a little featureless. Could it be landscaped or accommodate a water feature or sculpture? The grotto is a most attractive feature. Saplings were noted in wide grassed verge, hopefully these will become established and go on to mature. The flower display on the top of the Heather Hill and the Post Office premises were both profuse and colourful, well done. The newly landscaped area inside the bridge has been noted and should create a good visual impact on maturing.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The sports grounds are neatly presented to their roadside boundary, perhaps a fresh coat of whitewash will take that slightly weatherstained look from the walls here. We note the layout for the proposed outdoor environmental education centre, however as no details were submitted as regards species to be used and their purpose, it was difficult to make an assessment in this respect. Your submission for next year in this regard should include the purpose of the educational centre - for instance, is it education regarding nature and plants and general information on species and habitats? Some consideration might be given to making the park more user friendly from the main road. A person not familiar with the area would feel reticent about entering the park. We note work completed which includes pathway and a footbridge together with your plan for the proposed slipway and car park and lakeside amenity area and find this an exciting development. Is it noted that work has ceased due to inclement weather. Hopefully this project will have been brought to completion by next year's competition. The scenic view of deciduous woodland on the opposite side of the lake from the slipway is most pleasant.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent in the village, well done. We note you have a full time worker since March 2005 and this has been most effective for your lovely village. We would like to have details of your overall litter management strategy and daily activities including problem areas and how you have overcome these.

Tidiness:

Well done on the recycling point at the sports grounds, it was neatly presented. A few untidy side and rear areas were noted and some dereliction presents a problem. Your proposed waste management facility for the environmental park in conjunction with national school children is an excellent initiative. We appreciate that this has had to be placed on hold due to other considerations needing greater priority and we look forward to its completion for next year. Well done on an excellent initiative.

Residential Areas:

Terraced dwellings within the village are neatly presented and there are some excellent gardens to dwellings elsewhere. Work in progress has been noted for a housing development on the main street, which will enhance this area of the village substantially and hopefully be a source of additional help for the Tidy Towns effort. Work in progress to the residential development at the rear of the church has also been noted which corresponds with the information provided for the development of the green area in the residential development at this location. Encourage all residents to pay attention to their boundaries and the area immediately outside their boundaries. We wish you every luck in integrating new residents to Ballyforan into the social life of the community and hopefully, in return, they will be a source of additional help with Tidy Towns work and move you on to the next level in the competition.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Neat grass verges backed by old stone walls make an excellent introduction from approach roads to Ballyforan. Nameplates looked well also. Some section of stone walls were breached and should be refurbished whenever possible. One approach was overgrown and both the nameplate, the Welcome sign and the sign for school children crossing was partially hidden by the overgrowth, this is a dangerous situation. The Roscommon approach road was overgrown also. Well done on the wirescape free status of the village centre, most items of street furniture looked well. A good overall presentation under this heading.

General Impression:

Ballyforan is a pleasant village in beautiful surroundings on the bank of the River Suck. It is undergoing a substantial change, both in increased residential units and also in the development of recreational amenity facilities, both of which, if executed appropriately, will bring Ballyforan to greater heights in the National Tidy Towns Competition.

Second Round Adjudication: