

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bealnamulla**

Ref: **523**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **204**

Category: **A**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	33	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	12
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	204	200

Overall Developmental Approach:

Bealnamulla is most welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission. We empathise with your lack of enthusiasm for your continued participation in the competition as there is so much development on-going in the village that you feel a certain lack of control over your environment. Whilst this is understandable, do try to remember that it is only a transition period that Bealnamulla is going through and that the development will cease in the not too distant future and you will have your village back, albeit in a new guise and hopefully with the help of new residents you can bring Bealnamulla on to its full potential in the Tidy Towns Competition. You have a beautiful village and it would be a pity to allow it to lose its identity and become just another suburb of Athlone. When development has ceased, or is near completion, you can then have a three / five year plan prepared for Bealnamulla. We look forward to receiving this from you in the mid term future.

The Built Environment:

The Mill Bar and Restaurant is a most magnificent building, having retained all of its traditional proportions and features and being clothed in ivy. The car park here is neatly presented also. The school premises looks particularly well; it appears to have been recently painted. The grounds of the school complement the presentation of the building itself. It appeared on the day of adjudication that a second school building had been built alongside. The garage was quite neatly presented.

Landscaping:

Landscaped banks along the road on the entrance to Bealnamulla and within the village were greatly admired. The landscaping had matured well and everything was presented to a high standard. Landscaped entrances to housing estates were also admired, Monksfield and Waterville being two examples. Container planting was also a handsome feature of the village and the grounds of the school looked really well. Seated areas are an added feature to the landscaping.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The playing pitch for the girls' soccer club has been noted and was neatly presented. Might it not be possible to resurface its roadside area or extend your landscaping programme to this site? As of yet there have been no wildlife project undertaken and indeed with the extent of redevelopment within the village, wildlife has probably been disturbed and dispersed. New wildlife habitats will come on stream again when development has settled down - indeed some communities have entered as their wildlife project a survey of birds that can be seen in their gardens and local green areas. Your wildlife project doesn't have to be large or very ambitious and if you refer to your Tidy Towns Handbook you will find some good advice on how to get started, it doesn't matter how modest the project is.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent in Bealnamulla for adjudication. Some litter was noted on grass banks at intervals, however the nature of the litter suggested that this came from passing cars. This is a great pity, of course, but it is a problem that many villages on national primary routes experience. Next year submit information about your litter control activities for example, how regularly is litter picked? Is it organised on a rota basis? What type of litter do you find to be the most prevalent and so on..? So that we can award extra marks under this heading, if appropriate.

Tidiness:

Not surprisingly, given the extent of development and work in progress, there were a number of untidy sites and entrances, however these are transitory by nature and there will be an automatic improvement without any input from the community as developers need to finish off developments to a high standard to meet the demands of the marketplace. The overall appearance of Bealnamulla is one of neatness and tidiness.

Residential Areas:

The colour scheme in River Village was admired. In general all the older dwellings within the village are presented to the standard of excellence which has been achieved for them down throughout the years. At the time of adjudication Castlehall Manor was a work in progress and weedy kerbs and unfinished gardens were quite prevalent, however the green open space with recently planted trees and shrubs looked well. The Woodview development and the brick and stone faced premises located opposite the Texaco garage was admired, particularly in relation to its garden of roses.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Fáilte stones continue to impress but the hard shoulder was somewhat potholed and hopefully your local authority will address this problem when development works in the village have ceased. Street furniture was generally well presented, the water pump had been recently painted and was admired and container planting throughout the village looked healthy and profuse. Other stretches of road surface and layby were in need of refurbishment also.

General Impression:

Bealnamulla is experiencing a transition from being a quiet village to being a growing suburb of Athlone. This doesn't necessarily mean that the village will lose its identity, with careful planning Bealnamulla's heritage can be retained and celebrated.

Second Round Adjudication: