

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinderry**

Ref: **608**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **245**

Category: **A**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	31
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	37	37
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	27	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	37	35
General Impression	10	8	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>239</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballinderry Improvement Association seems to have a high level of care and commitment to the village in terms of its fund raisers and annual clean up. You would appear to have a good working relationship with North Tipperary County Council and CES. Your plans in relation to providing more stone walling and developing a riverside walk and fishing pathway are all highly commendable. No Three Year Plan was submitted, despite the comments made in last year's report. It is essential, at this stage in the competition, that you formulate a work programme in order that you can set a sensible series of goals and deadlines to achieve within a set time-frame. This document will also help the adjudicators to monitor your progress as the years go by. The adjudicator was surprised to read in last year's report of plans for developing at Elsie Hogan's and yet, on arrival in the village, there seemed to be no sign of it! What happened to this proposal? The adjudicator would like to reiterate the concerns raised by last year's adjudicators at both first and second round stage in regard to this. This area of the village has a unique and distinct charm all of its own and it would be a shame to lose it.

### The Built Environment:

The Tavern looked well, although its sign on the Nenagh approach on its wall is so faded as to be unreadable. This should be attended to before next year's competition. The Village Store looked well although its forecourt area appears somewhat stark and tree planting or judicious landscaping in this location would be most beneficial. Elsie Hogans' looks as charming as ever and comments have been

made elsewhere in this report in relation to any potential development in this location.

### **Landscaping:**

Landscaping throughout the village was generally discreet and well maintained. The area by the riverside looked quite charming, and must be a peaceful place to spend some time. Attractive nasturtiums were planted by Elsie Hogans' Pub. The car parking area with its magnificent display of montbretia opposite was also admired and will look magnificent when in full bloom. The village pump was simply presented and landscaped areas on approach roads were well maintained.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The adjudicator was disappointed to note that you had left this section of your application form blank. This is a comment that was raised in last year's report also. Do consult your Tidy Towns Handbook in regard to potential projects to implement in this category of the competition. It could be projects ranging from erecting wildlife information boards to the erection of bird tables and nesting boxes or the planting of a wild flower area. You should also seek the advice of local experts in this regard.

### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good. However, even one or two papers are all the more apparent in a village of Ballinderry's size - a few papers were noted on the Borrisokane Road.

### **Tidiness:**

An attractive stone outbuilding was admired on the Nenagh Road but its tin roofs were in need of a fresh coat of paint in their traditional colour. There were one or two yard areas on this road which also were in need of some attention. These should be screened as far as possible from public view. The caravan park area was quite neatly presented.

### **Residential Areas:**

This is a strong category of the competition. Some magnificent gardens were noted in the village centre as were some attractive gardens, houses and fences on the Borrisokane Road. The freshly painted cottages on the Ballinderry Road were admired - especially those which extended their area of interest to the roadsides. An interesting house with unusual timber detailing was noted on Puckane Road.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

On the Nenagh Road the grass verges were well maintained as were those on the Terryglass Road. The village nameplate on the Borrisokane Road appeared quite grubby and needed washing down. The verges had been well cut back but unfortunately revealed a few papers. Honeysuckle was evident in the hedgerows which created a good impression. On the Puckane Road the grass verges were well maintained.

### **General Impression:**

Ballinderry is a small but attractive centre which continues to perform strongly in the competition. Do be aware of any future developments taking place and ensure that they do not detract from the village's unique and distinct charm.

## Second Round Adjudication:

The 2nd round adjudicator strongly supports the advice of your 1st round adjudicator to prepare a 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for Ballinderry. Your marks for your Overall Development Approach have not increased since 2003, and that is largely the reason. The approach roads to your village were excellently presented on the day of 2nd round adjudication. You have achieved a lush green rich appearance to your roadside verges that have been so neatly cut.

As indicated by the 1st round adjudicator you need to consider your approach to wildlife as part of your Tidy Towns Plan. Again your marks have remained static in this category for the last few years. If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat Survey carried out of the wildlife in your area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- § Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- § Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, lakes, canals, reed marsh, bogs
- § Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- § Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to your area. This need not be an expensive Survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person in one of your Schools who might undertake this task for you. Basically the Survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the Survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different times of the year. Using the results of the Wildlife survey your next step should be to draft a straight forward Plan to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. For example perhaps there is an old Pond in your area that is disused, but with a little work could be an important area for wildfowl.

As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof and vandal proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

A few pieces of litter were noted on the Kilbarron approach road.

Recommendations for mark changes are as follows: -