

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballingarry-Tipperary N**

Ref: **315**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **224**

Category: **A**

Date: **12/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	34	33
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	224	220

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballingarry continues to perform well in the competition. The adjudicator was pleased to note that you submitted an Action Plan for this year, but it was rather disappointed to note that you had not submitted your Three Year Work Programme. It is very unfortunate that your Post Office and local shop closed in the last few years. Your plan to develop Church Lane to the Church of Ireland as an Amenity Walk is a commendable initiative. Your strong relationship with North Tipperary County Council, the GAA and the local farming community must be of great help to the twelve strong committee!

The Built Environment:

As mentioned in last year's report and that of the year before, the badly maintained curved roof building at the centre village looks unfortunate. It is in need of repainting, as is Cavanagh's, which sported some red staining to its side wall. The Top Garage looked fine, although some more planting would soften the appearance of its forecourt somewhat. The Garda Station looked well with colourful pansies planted to the front. The green shed opposite, however, was in need of painting. There are a badly maintained pair of very charming stone buildings in the centre of village would be quite marvellous if restored to their former glory. The Glue Pot was quite fresh, as was Noonan's. The charming Church of Ireland was admired, but the Community Hall was somewhat stained and should be attended to before next year's competition.

Landscaping:

The landscaped areas throughout the village looked quite magnificent with grassy verges being well maintained and attractive use of permanent planting. Do ensure that edges are not sprayed, or if they are, that the dead grass is then removed, as this can look unfortunate. More spraying was evident at open spaces on the Shinrone road. Its well cut grassy banks with large stone beds of planting set in gravel were admired, although the gravel area was a little weedy. The picnic area on Birr road with its stone entrances and seating areas was admired. A new wall was under construction behind Noonan's on the day. The GAA Park also sported an attractive stone boundary wall. Church lane was a little patchy in the appearance of its landscaped areas.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

A bird table was noted at a house but otherwise, the adjudicator was disappointed to note, no mention of this category of the competition was made in your submission! Perhaps you could take advantage of the knowledge of local experts, such as the County Council Wildlife Ranger in this regard. Consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for further potential projects.

Litter Control:

The standard in this category of the competition was good, generally. However, a couple of papers were noted at the picnic area and a can was spotted at the open space at the Borrisokane road. A few of the litter bins around the village were in need of repainting on the day.

Tidiness:

There was evidence of the storage of concrete piping behind the fencing on grass verge on the Borrisokane road, although the area appeared quite neat. Could this be screened in some way? Weeds were noted to kerbsides in places. The Recycling area was fine in the vicinity of the picnic area.

Residential Areas:

A marvellously maintained green painted house with colourful hanging baskets and window boxes was admired, located opposite Cavanaghs. Houses in the village centre were generally in a good state of repair. A very freshly painted boundary wall on the Shinrone road looked extremely well.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Along the Borrisokane road, the grassy verge was well maintained. The stone beds planted with petunias at the welcome sign were admired but the metal bench was in need of painting. Directional signs in this location appeared a little grubby. The picnic area on the Birr road was admired. Along the Portumna road, a wealth of stone walling was admired. The same problem of dead grass at edges was noted. The freshly painted boundary wall on the Shinrone road has been noted elsewhere in this report.

General Impression:

Ballingarry is a most charming village which continues to perform well in the competition. Great efforts were evident due to the ongoing hard work of the committee and it was a pleasure to visit on adjudication day.

Second Round Adjudication:

Ballingarry is a village with further potential in the Tidy Towns competition. Attention to detail is important and hopefully the following points will be of help. On the day of 2nd round adjudication dead grass following the over use of weed killer was noted in several areas especially on the Birr approach road. Weed killer must always be used carefully and sparingly. The picnic area looked very attractive on the day of 2nd round adjudication but weed growth needs to be watched here especially on the road through this area. Indeed casual weed growth was noted in a number of areas. At the picnic area the seats and table need urgent painting as the paint is flaking off. The Bring Centre near here was very tidy – well done! On the Roscrea road cut grass shad not been taken away. The stone walls here give character to this approach road as they do on other roads.