

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinagore**

Ref: **232**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **225**

Category: **B**

Date: **09/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	32	30
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>221</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank Ballinagore Tidy Towns Committee for the completed application form, detailed map, a summary of the work carried out to date and a work plan for 2005/2006; particularly impressive was the series of photographs highlighting many aspects of the village including a very graphic before and after picture of a previously derelict site. We look forward to the development of this village over the years as outlined in your plans.

### The Built Environment:

Ballinagore is a very attractive village. A feature of this delightful village is the expansive walls which are generally very well maintained and add character. The Mullingar approach is dominated by the school with its colourful flower boxes. Turning left at Arches Pub brings you down through the well maintained centre of the village. We wish the committee well in their endeavours to underground the wirescape as it is quite intrusive.

### Landscaping:

A tremendous amount of work has been carried out by the committee in this regard. Trees are maturing nicely and a number have been planted beside the school building which acts as a screening mechanism for the new housing development. Windowboxes and stone planters dominate

throughout the village which has a cared for feeling.

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

Involving the children with wildlife is commendable and the committee have made the most of its wildlife amenities, including the riverside walk and natural habitats. No evidence of boarded information signs as yet, these would be most welcome and would highlight the rich natural flora and fauna of the village.

### **Litter Control:**

Ballinagore was litter free on the day of inspection. Members of the committee were patrolling the village for litter as the adjudicator drove and walked through the village. The riverside walk and the river were litter free.

### **Tidiness:**

Overall Ballinagore is a very tidy village. The grassed areas are well maintained. There are beautiful displays flowers in tubs, hanging baskets and boxes throughout the village.

### **Residential Areas:**

The new housing development is ongoing at the moment and once completed should provide the committee with new members which will help ensure that the high standards continue to be maintained. The residential areas within the village are well presented and although missing front gardens, most have magnificent floral displays. The petrol pump would benefit from painting and the old HB sign should be removed.

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

The Mullingar approach road is extremely well maintained. The well presented hedges give a very tidy appearance. Weeds were visible through the concrete in the school grounds. The Tyrrellspass approach likewise is well maintained. The sign for Mullingar opposite the Arches is broken and the signpost itself needs to be painted/ replaced. Letters were missing from the village name sign.

### **General Impression:**

Ballinagore is a pleasure to visit and hard work is evident throughout. It is hoped that the new residents will appreciate and maintain the attractiveness of this village.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The village was quiet during a Saturday morning second adjudication in August. How fortunate you do not have to contend with continuous through traffic in the village core. You are endowed with some lovely natural and manmade features and you have potential to be a high scorer in the competition. You should concentrate on sustained development of high standard. The river feature is special and offers great amenity value and potential for raising your wildlife marks also. Some of the flower tubs along the river walk need replacing. Do lobby the Co. Council for undergrounding overhead cables: it would make such a difference and enable you to move to a higher league. The two approach roads on the N52 are well presented and inviting with attractive display of flowers. You need to firm up your plan of action for the next three to five years. You might also consider a village sculpture with relevance to the traditions of the goat. The restoration of the building in the village to three housing units is an example of what can be achieved and represents a classic infill development.

