

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinahown Village**

Ref: **677**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **260**

Category: **A**

Date: **12/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	
The Built Environment	40	34	
Landscaping	40	36	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	
Litter Control	40	37	
Tidiness	20	18	
Residential Areas	30	24	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	
General Impression	10	8	
TOTAL MARK	300	260	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the completed application form together with map and list of projects undertaken in Ballinahown Village during the year. The involvement from such a small village which includes 11 core members, school children and 15 key helpers demonstrates excellent community spirit and is highly commendable. It is also noted that the committee has been proactive in seeking the support of various agencies and this is also to be commended. Progress in the village is evident under all headings. The new Environmental Plan for the village by Design Consultant is eagerly awaited.

The Built Environment:

As mentioned in last year's report, this is a particularly good category for the village. Some very nice lime wash painting noted on the buildings in the centre of the village adds a nice distinguishing feature to the village. The planned refurbishment in traditional styles is commendable. The new flower beds, the flowering baskets, the ornamental pots, the planted stonewalls, the sports park, etc. are all very well presented. The school's involvement is excellent and the continual development of interesting projects to raise children's awareness and interest in their environment is admirable and an approach that other towns and villages could learn from – well done to all involved.

Landscaping:

The landscaping throughout the village is excellent. The very well maintained shrubs, and particularly the effective choice of colours and plants is to be commended. The Nature Trail is maturing very well and the gazebo is nicely enhanced by the addition of hanging baskets. The new playground area is a very practical and attractive addition to park area and will now encourage more people to use the facility. The adjudicator suggests investigating the development of a safer entry point for young children as there is no pathway evident into the park other than the road which is at a very dangerous part of the road. The Community Centre looks very well and the rear area looks much tidier this year.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Ballinahown village continues to give a lot of thought to this category. The adjudicator looks forward to hearing positive results from your endeavours. (installing bird tables, bat boxes etc). The school solar water feature is an interesting and it is good to hear that a hedgerow management programme is in existence.

Litter Control:

Litter control in the village is excellent and on the day of inspection there was no litter in evidence. The recycling area is in a much better position screened behind the wall and it was very neatly maintained this year, a marked improvement. Well done to all involved.

Tidiness:

A noticeable improvement was noted at the rear of the Community Centre. The polenthene mounds and storage area are well screened by fencing and it is good to see that the recommendations of the adjudication panel are being taken on board.

Residential Areas:

It is good to see that traditional styles are being adhered to under this heading. Pride in the village is clearly evident throughout– congratulations and continued good work to all.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The speed signs have been replaced, walls have been painted and the additional planting has greatly improved all approach roads. The traffic calming development plans are noted and the adjudicator looks forward to this development. Overall Ballinahown village fared very well in this category. It is also good to note that the overall visual perspective is being carefully considered in all future developments.

General Impression:

Despite the increased traffic flow through the village which brings its own problems, Ballinahown continues to progress well in the competition. The village is very tidy and is visually very attractive. The progress of the village to date is clearly enhanced by the involvement of diverse interest parties and this a very forward looking approach which will continue pay dividends. Congratulations and well done!

Second Round Adjudication:

It was delightful to traverse the various streets, short cuts, nature trail and some back areas on a quiet Saturday in August in Ballinahown. The village looked stunning and the attention to detail was most impressive. A village full of bloom, extending to all approach roads, church yard and in particular the national school, which was faultless during holiday closure. One or two small points: -

try and get the resident to remove the abandoned car from the back garden and some discarded furniture was visible from the footpath of one of the houses. We loved your history illustrations and the many displays associated with the traditions of the area. The Art Gallery is superb. In short, a village of distinction. You have increased your marks again this year: well done.