

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinalack**

Ref: **264**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **188**

Category: **B**

Date: **21/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	22	20
Landscaping	40	24	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	19	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>184</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for you application form, map and development plan. This plan is most detailed and sets out realistic goals for the future of your community. May the adjudicator take this opportunity to wish you every success with this strategy.

### The Built Environment:

The overall built environment of Ballinalack is in good shape. While the village is subjected to a large through-flow of traffic, it handles it well and manages to maintain a neat and nicely presented environment. The new houses at Inis Glor are fine structures. Vobe Interiors, with its outdoor seating, is also well presented. The work on the rebuilding of the old stone wall is positively noted.

### Landscaping:

The village is a perfusion of colour provided by hanging baskets and window boxes. It is noted that some enhancement of the old bridge is scheduled. The adjudicator looks forward to its completion. The work carried out in clearing the view of the Inny from Inis Glor is highly commendable.

### Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is positive to note that a study will be undertaken next year to identify the variety of habitats that exist within the village and in the River Inny. The adjudicator is aware that advice will be sought from the Midlands Regional Tourism Board and the relevant environmental agencies. You are wished every success with this study.

### **Litter Control:**

All those involved in litter control are to be congratulated. Your efforts are evident – Ballinalack is relatively litter-free. Keep up the good work!

### **Tidiness:**

With the exceptions of Inis Glor and the village pub car park, Ballinalack is a tidy village. It is noted that the developer is responsible for the unruly appearance of the Inis Glor estate and it is understood that some construction work is underway at the pub. When these projects are completed Ballinalack should score very highly in this category.

### **Residential Areas:**

The problem with the Inis Glor development is mentioned above. The older houses, however, look very well and are a credit to their owners. Lawns were tidy and nicely presented. A good category for Ballinalack.

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

The approach roads to the village were in general of a good standard. Potted flowers enhanced the approaches and verges were well maintained. Very little litter was evident on any approach and the Dutch Furniture building, although big in size, had evidently gone to considerable effort to blend in with the village. As mentioned above work is planned on the old bridge. This will serve only to brighten the Sligo approach. Both filling stations at the Mullingar end of the village were tastefully landscaped and the whitewashed building with trellises looked well.

### **General Impression:**

Ballinalack has the potential to do very well in this competition in the coming years. The community seems focused and driven, due in no small part to the implementation of your long term plan. We wish you well in your endeavours and look forward to seeing the progress made by next year.