

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballykeeran**

Ref: **176**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **182**

Category: **A**

Date: **08/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	29
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	19
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	182	178

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the completed application form plan and map. The boost given to the community by winning the Westmeath Endeavour Award and the assistance given by the Urban and Village Renewal Scheme is evident throughout the village and improvements under several headings were noted by the adjudicator this year. The increased involvement of local residents and school children in various aspects of the competition will pay dividends for Ballykeeran into the future. Keep up the good work!

The Built Environment:

There are some good improvements in this category. The stone walls in the centre of the village look very well despite very heavy traffic. The new pedestrian bridge is a welcome addition to the centre of the village. Perhaps it's overall attractiveness could be further enhanced by the addition of some suitable floral features or plantings. Some improvements in the car park area of the Dog & Duck have been noted however some weed control is still in need in this area.

Landscaping:

The picnic area is again looking really well, well done. The Adjudicator looks forward to the completion of the proposed plantings throughout the village and when these proposals are complete

it should impact very favourably on the overall visual impact of the village. A general improvement was noted in terms of weed control, verge and hedgerow maintenance.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Area B – wildlife area signs not evident on day of inspection. Have they been erected? Looking forward to receiving the completed survey on flora and fauna.

Litter Control:

In general, there has been a marked improvement for Ballykeeran in this category. There was little or no litter in evidence in the centre of the village – unfortunately the bin was overflowing at the picnic/lay-by area overlooking the lake and there was a smattering of litter blowing around.

Tidiness:

Ballykeeran is making great strides in this area and the village is starting to look much tidier. Some additional verge cutting and weed control needed throughout but overall notable improvements in this category.

Residential Areas:

Generally well maintained. Good to hear that there are plans for the unoccupied house on Bullet Road and the thatched cottage. Improvements in areas such as these will be very valuable in obtaining additional marks in the competition. Good luck to all involved.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Athlone approach is very neat. The Glasson/Ballymahon approach (upper road) needs some verge cutting, perhaps this was underway in the village at the time of adjudication? The back roads leading up to the residential area in the centre of the village was very well maintained. In general roads streets and back areas are well maintained throughout. Well done!

General Impression:

The centre of the village is looking much tidier and this is gradually extending to the wider area. Continued good work. The bridge area is a very nice addition from both an aesthetic and safety point of view. The Adjudicator looks forward to the implementation and completion of various elements of the plan over the coming years and has no doubt your efforts will be rewarded...keep up the good work!