

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballynacargy**

Ref: **296**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **209**

Category: **B**

Date: **18/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	209	208

Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your application form and map. The Ballynacargy Tidy Towns committee continues to be proactive and works in cooperation with local community groups, the local authority and other agencies. However, your submission should also include a schedule of work completed for the year and a brief three-to-five year Development Plan as was submitted some years back.

The Built Environment:

Ballynacargy can boast some fine buildings in the village. Halligan's, the Church and the underway development of the new public toilets are examples of these. Hopefully some of the run-down buildings on the canal banks will be restored in the near future, as this will add to this otherwise scenic area.

Landscaping:

The situating of the pergola at the stream is an excellent idea. The residents and business owners are to be commended for their colourful displays of flowers throughout the village. The shop on the corner of Main Street, as well as Halligan's Pub were particularly bright. The introduction of new seating in the village square is also a welcome addition. Lovely floral arrangements were in placed at the Canal Harbour and at the village green.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The continued development of the canal harbour area is sure to pay dividends. With the mature trees and hedging this area is obviously abound with wildlife, and the harbour is in natural habitat for the many ducks gathered. Perhaps the introduction of interpretation boards at the canal area could be considered.

Litter Control:

There is a plentiful supply of bins in the area and most had been emptied on the day of inspection. Ballynacargy is a relatively clean town. It does, however, have a couple of problem areas. On the day of the adjudicator's visit, dumping was evident at the recycling area. Littering in the lock area of the canal was also evident, and it was most disappointing to note dumping in the stream. The adjudicator does note the committee's efforts in tackling these problems.

Tidiness:

The corrugated hut at the village green does nothing for the area and in the adjudicator's opinion should be removed or at least camouflaged. In general the streets were neat and well kept, although some weeding was evident. The wirescape, while not erratic, could do with some neatening.

Residential Areas:

By and large the residential areas were well presented, many displaying colourful floral arrangements. Some houses in the estate opposite the national school remain in need of attention, and on the day of adjudication the green area in the estate was rather unkempt. With a little effort this could be improved upon. The housing scheme on the Mullingar Road was very well presented, congratulations to its residents.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Tidy Towns committee is to be lauded for its work on the approach roads to the village. The maintenance of trees and hedges, the planting of shrubs and trimming of verges, coupled with the absence of weeds and litter all serve to enhance the approach to the village. Keep up the good work!

General Impression:

Ballynacargy is a neat village with a lot of potential and has the added advantage of a wonderful amenity in the shape of the canal harbour. With the continuation of the community's hard work and the establishment and successful implementation of a long term strategy, Ballynacargy should score very highly in the coming years.