

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballon** Ref: **526**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **232**
Category: **B** Date(s): **15/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	232

Overall Development Approach:

Ballon is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission and your most excellent plan, which was appreciated by the adjudicator. We note your use of a newsletter to communicate Tidy Towns activities and news to the community, well done on this initiative. Your website also a valuable tool in this respect. No plan has been submitted this year and it is difficult to progress without one, so perhaps you could prepare one for next years competition. The committee and the larger community are very proud of its cultural heritage and perhaps some heritage panels could be erected to communicate this to visitors.

The Built Environment:

It is a good idea to check out planning applications to ensure sensitive development and redevelopment within the village, you are to be commended for taking a pro-active approach here. Civic buildings such as the church, school, and the garda station are presented to the highest standard and cannot be faulted in any respect. Shops, garages and public houses all look well except for the few plastic protruding neon signs and beer signs, keep up the encouragement to eliminate these dated features from buildings as they do nothing to enhance them. Your gentle colour schemes of muted pastels is an attractive feature of your lovely village.

Landscaping:

New flowerbeds have been both noted and admired for their design and indeed for their maintenance, well done to those involved. Flower displays through out the village on approach roads and hanging baskets and window boxes are colourful and lift the appearance of their buildings and the village in general to a large degree. Young trees are maturing well and will provide both heritage for future generations and valuable

wildlife habitats.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We note with interest your wildlife garden and tree survey, perhaps you can give us some information on the tree survey in next year's submission. Congratulations to the school children for their wildlife panel, which was made up of children's artwork depicting local wildlife this is an excellent initiative; a stream survey sounds fascinating and we would love to have more information about that.

Litter Control:

Your Litter control are impressive to have eight regular weekly litter pickers is grand achievement. Congratulations on your participation in the Carlow Litter League competition keep us up to date with your activities under this heading as they can earn you additional marks also. Litter control was excellent during adjudication.

Waste Minimisation:

Your recycling centres were presented in a tidy manner, well done. To really do well under this heading please consult the Race Against waste booklet which was included in this year's TidyTowns pack. The idea here is for the committee to promote and/or organise waste reduction initiatives and recycling. There are probably some initiatives already underway in your town, so remember to list these on next year's entry form to gain additional marks.

Tidiness:

We note from your submission that you hired a road sweeper to maintain the village in a tidy manner, well done on this initiative also again you could fill us in with details of cost, frequency, and how effective it is in order to earn extra marks for yourselves, and so that we can pass on ideas to other communities. Ballon was very tidy on the day of adjudication.

Residential Areas:

All the new housing estates were beautifully landscaped and being maintained at the highest standards, well done on this achievement. On street houses in the village itself are for the most part nicely painted and feature flower displays.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

We wish you well in your efforts to acquire heritage signage and panels to communicate your cultural heritage to the broader public. The main road in the village is wirescape free however the wirescape at the bottom of Ballon hill at the junction with the main road looks quite bad and the old service poles here should be replaced with nicer lampstandards eventually.

General Impression:

Ballon is located on a National Primary Road and suffers badly from speeding traffic nonetheless, the community has achieved a remarkable standard of presentation given the pressure under which it has to go about its daily life. Thank you for a fine presentation this year.