

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballymurphy** Ref: **34**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **227**
Category: **A** Date(s): **16/06/2006**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2006 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 35 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 25 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 32 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 18 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 35 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 3 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 18 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 24 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 29 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 227 |

Overall Development Approach:

Ballymurphy is most welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed submission with which included details of your work on the mountain right of way at Coonogue: although this was done in conjunction with other groups it is a credit to the community. Ballymurphy enjoys a excellent location at the foot of the Blackstairs Mountains and it is only fitting that it should enjoy mountain walks; congratulations on your two Si na Slainte routes and on your excellent information panel.

The Built Environment:

The sign on Fenelon & Daughters Hilltop Bar is in need of refurbishment and the beer signs should be removed. The school boundary wall is in need of cleaning or indeed of painting to freshen its appearance. The gates to the site of the Old Forge could be refurbished; and encourage the garage to cease the practice of having posters in the window as it looks untidy. The church is a handsome building and it is good to know that is floodlit at night and at festival times.

Landscaping:

Well done on you're activities under this heading and particularly on the planting of native species such as mountain ash. Flower displays in hanging baskets, mangers and barrels were admired for the splash of colour they brought to the village and it is a pleasure to note that you have achieved seasonal interest for displays on the Killealy road. The bridge looks well and congratulations also on the piece of public art. You have scored handsomely under this heading.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Beach hedgerow, which you planted as a backdrop to the new mountain ash trees, will provide valuable

wildlife habitat for many species as it matures. It is good to note from your submission that you are developing a wildlife area at the back of the school which children can manage. The grotto looked particularly well. We agree with your strategy of keeping areas as natural as possible.

Litter Control:

Well done on an excellent performance; the village was litter free on the day of adjudication congratulations also on your participation in the Carlow Anti-Litter League, together with your circulation of flowers to residents, businesses, etc regarding participation in the litter effort: a fine performance. Do keep us informed of other litter management activities, as it is this type of detail that can earn you extra marks under this heading.

Waste Minimisation:

We note the presence of the recycling point with its banks for bottles etc; to compete successfully under this heading you will need to come up with strategies to minimise waste as well as recycling. Involve the entire community both business interests, farming interests, residents, and school children. The Race Against Waste booklet included in this year's Tidy Towns pack contains a number of good ideas on this.

Tidiness:

Your overall appearance of the village was one of tidiness and indeed one of great beauty and we note from your submission that the entire community is involved in maintaining Ballymurphy in a tidy manner. The only serious blackspot was the curtilage area of the community centre, which was untidy in a number of respects and certainly underdeveloped in appearance. Weed growth around the base of the phone box at the garage was problematic under this heading.

Residential Areas:

Dwellings are presented very nicely and the new residential estate is sitting nicely in its new surroundings; it would be a good idea to provide a namestone for the estate; on the day of adjudication the estate looked as though further development works might be planned; try to involve your new residents into the life of the community in general and into the Tidy Towns work program.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Your new large granite welcome stone was admired together with the picnic tables and seats, which have been generously donated. Congratulations on the 50% grant by Leader for ornamental lights within the village, and on the county council replacing the water pump; these links with statutory bodies and agencies are important for the future development of the village. The rails of the grotto, which have been replaced by local craftsman, is a fine gesture also. Road and footpath surfaces look well and don't present many problems. There appears not to be too much involved in restoring the wall from the grotto to the pump. Verges from approach roads are neatly presented and name signs and other road signs look well.

General Impression:

Ballymurphy is a charming village located at the foot of the Blackstairs Mountains and with walking routes leading into the mountains. The village is beautifully presented and you have achieved a good balance between flowering plants and more permanent planting this should be the keynote for the future.