

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyorgan** Ref: **443**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **222**
Category: **A** Date(s): **14/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	222

Overall Development Approach:

Ballyorgan is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2006. Many thanks for the detailed entry form, well executed map and note that you are revising the Village Plan and hope to have it completed for 2007. Even though Ballyorgan isn't large, there is a small committee and you are admired for the way in which you have worked to improve the village for all to enjoy, and for including the children in the Annual Spring Clean. It is noted that you are supported in your activities by the Limerick County Council, FAS and Ballyhoura Development.

The Built Environment:

As mentioned in last year's report, the Church and grounds was well presented, but the gate still needs painting, as does the main door. The school was also in good order with the cotoneaster planting nicely screening the boundary wall, but both gates need painting and the outside buildings also need attention. The business premises Foxes Designer Suites looked very well, as did the Lantern Lodge, with its beautifully landscaped garden, but the sign upright is rusted, and the painting of the gable wall of Moyinhan's needs finishing. You are fortunate to have one of the old telephone kiosks, and this would look so much better if painted. The artwork on the derelict cottage certainly improves it, so perhaps something similar could be arranged to brighten up the Old Hall? And the pump, in its attractive stone setting, needs painting. The timber cottages in the Ballyhoura Forest Homes scheme looked well nestling in their forest surroundings.

Landscaping:

The tree planting on the Kilfinane road would be improved if the grass was removed from around the base of the trees, and you have scope there to plant some silver birch, the bark of which add winter interest. The landscaped feature at Long Delay cottage looked very attractive, as did the shrubs tumbling over the stone wall by Moyinhan's. It is noted in your plan that you are considering replacing the roses with some easy

maintenance plants - roses are heavy feeders and don't thrive when covered with weed control mesh and gravel, but do find a good home for them. Many of the dwellings in the village presented well in this category but the stone bungalow and the white house with the lovely display of window boxes caught the eye of the adjudicator, and the garden of the B & B, as already mentioned.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wild bird Information Board by the river was admired, and this is a beautiful natural wildlife area and note you hope to develop this area in the future – perhaps a short riverside walk? Your eco-friendly approach in leaving pockets of land around the village where wildlife can prosper is admirable. The Tidy Towns handbook will give you further ideas on this topic, like placing some bird tables in the lovely school garden.

Litter Control:

The village could have presented better, as there was a light sprinkling of litter noted on the day and dog litter was also noted by the school wall and down by the river. Cigarette butts were strewn outside Moynihan's. There were two styles of litter bins and all were in need of painting or cleaning.

Waste Minimisation:

Note that you hope to get a bring bank for the village in the future, but this is a new category for 2006, and your committee needs to study the Race Against Waste booklet which gives information on composting, recycling clothes, Green Schools' initiative, car and van runs to Recycling Centres, etc. You may also get some useful information on this from the Environmental Section of Limerick County Council.

Tidiness:

The village presented quite well and weed control had taken place, but the old dandelions were peeking through again. And weed control was needed by the school wall, on the way down to the river, and the old gate by the river needs attention. Have you given thought to uncovering what looked like a fine dry stone wall at the centre of the village?

Residential Areas:

The village has many fine private dwellings and most are presented in a very tasteful manner, some, as already mentioned with lovely mature gardens. There are also some fine farmhouses with neatly presented farmyards. The adjudicator observed a recent planning notice for the construction of a new housing development at the centre of the village. The pavement, with its fine kerb stones, from Foxe's to the bridge area needs refurbishment.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Kildorrery approach road was well presented with the hedgerows nicely trimmed, as was the Kilfinane approach, but the area around the old 'lodge' entrance could be much improved if the weeds were killed off and the gate painted. The signage was in good order. The Community & Enterprise and the Walking Routes Information Boards were well positioned.

General Impression:

Ballyorgan, on a lovely summer's day, looked a lovely and tranquil place to live, and a beautiful place for a walking holiday, and the adjudicator observed a number of well shod walkers taking off to the surrounding hills. You mention population decline as a problem in your form, but if the new housing development goes ahead, this may be resolved in time. Keep up the good work.