

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Galbally** Ref: **452**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **273**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **12/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>273</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Galbally Community Council is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2006. Thank you for your entry form, accompanying documentation, including the Galbally 2005 Landscape Architecture Plan. Thank you also for the detailed maps. And well done to those concerned in raising over €1,600.00 from your various fund raising activities. It is noted that you receive support from Limerick County Council, FAS, Ballyhoura Development Ltd, ESB, Eircom, Shannon Development, and many local businesses. Your committee of fifteen is obviously working very well as a team, and continues to involve as many of the local community as possible in your plans for the further development of the village.

### The Built Environment:

Galbally has many fine buildings, and the Church, the Grotto and grounds, including the well marked parking area was well presented, as was the National School with its lovely hand painted sign, but the gates and coving need painting. The Cemetery was well cared for. The Community Hall, housing The Galbally Exhibition, was in good order, except there is a rusting down pipe and one truly neglected window box, and the WC was a credit to whoever cares for it. Many of the business premises were well maintained including Mulvey's Coffee Shop; Hedigan's; The Kilmallock Inn, and the winner of the 2005 Irish Shopfront Award – An Chearnog, and Galtee House looked well but for the old rusting petrol pumps. Some of the former business premises were also admired – M Barry; A J Ryan; P Kelly's John Scanlan and O'Donovan's, and many also retained their original features. The Centra store is besieged with fly postings and merchandise is over-spilling on to the pavement. In spite of the addition of the artwork, the second-hand furniture store on the Tipperary road presents badly and the Health Board building is weather stained. Well done on completing the flood lighting at the War of Independence Memorial at the centre of the village.

### Landscaping:

Many of the landscaped areas were admired – the picnic area on the Tipperary approach; the bed of dwarf begonias surrounding the New Zealand flax at the Ballylanders' junction; raised bed by the green gate on the Moor Abbey road, the planting in Old Street, as was the begonia filled raised bed in the square, where the Tidy Towns 1994 National Winner's plaque proudly stands. The new and old planting of trees, ilex and prunus on the Ballylanders Road are maturing nicely, and would benefit from having some of the lower branches removed. The same can be said of the trees in the Square, where some were under-planted with summer bedding, and others needed weeding. The Silver birch separating the Church and Community Hall looked very well. Some of the shrub-planted tubs in the Square also need weeding and feeding. The picnic area around Moor Abbey was very well presented.

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The village is set in one of the most beautiful natural wildlife areas, with the Glen of Aherloe close by, and it also has some of the finest walking routes on its doorstep – Ballyhoura, Glen of Aherlow, Slieve Felim, etc. It is noted that you are still in negotiating the procurement of land close the graveyard for the Wildlife Sanctuary, and thank you for including a copy of the March 2004 wildlife survey.

#### **Litter Control:**

Litter control on the day was good, and a FAS worker was noted busily cleaning about the village. There was just a very light sprinkling noted out on the Moor Abbey road and at the back of the new housing development on the Ballylanders side of the village. And smokers must be discouraged from throwing butts into the flower containers and tree surrounds. There are sufficient litter bins in the village. Well done to all concerned on the erection of illegal dumping and 'scoop the poop' signage, and to all who partake in the Spring Clean Up.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

The bring bank area was nicely landscaped, screened and the containers were clean, and also observed the St Vincent de Paul Society container close by. Noted in your form that you also segregate litter during the clean ups. This is a new category for 2006, and your committee needs to study the Race Against Waste which gives information on composting, recycling clothes, the Green Schools initiative, etc. You may also get some useful information on this from the Environmental Section of Tipperary North County Council.

#### **Tidiness:**

There are a number of areas needing attention in this category: the fine old building at the entrance to Marian Terrace is unsightly, as is the derelict building above the school; Kyleglass Bridge needs repair and also the old blue gate and barbed wired fencing close by, as do other old farm gates and old sheds dotted about the village, where weed control is also needed.

#### **Residential Areas:**

The Square has some fine three-storey dwellings and most are maintained to a very high standard. The lemon painted terrace on the Tipperary side looked well, and new houses under way close by. The dwellings, with their lovely window box display, in Old Street were admired and the seats and flower containers are nicely screening the breeze block wall. This adjudicator also admired the modern housing development on the Limerick side and many of houses there had wonderful floral displays. Most of the dwellings in Marian Avenue and Pine View were well presented, but the boundary walls, chimneys and gables of others need attention, and this can be repeated for a few other dwellings in the village. Many other private dwellings presented very well, but the yellow, red and dashed bungalow and the Aherloe road, with its magnificent display of roses, and Riversdale Cottage, was eye catching.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

All the hedges and verges on the main approaches to the village were neat and tidy. Most of the signage was in good condition, but the Moor Abbey approach sign needs straightening and cleaning, and the double road safety sign on this road was in poor condition. The road surfaces were good and the Ballylanders road had just been resurfaced.

#### **General Impression:**

Galbally, with its fine architecture, history, and idyllic surroundings, has much to offer both local and visitors. The village has a great track record in the competition, the highlight being winning the National title in 1994, and also wonderfully well in the County Awards. We wish you continued success in all the activities of the community.

