

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballintubber** Ref: **794**
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **257**
Category: **A** Date(s): **03/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	257

Overall Development Approach:

As usual very good efforts have been made to keep the consistently high score that is obtained at Ballintubber. The village has all the ingredients of a traditional Irish village with crossroads, public house, Church, school and shop all at the crossroads of the village. The maintenance of these strong ingredients is a valued asset and well done to all who participate in presenting the village in the fine state of today.

The Built Environment:

The Old ruined castle gives an important aspect to the built environment providing a particularly interesting historic site on the doorstep of the village. This is well capitalised upon by the attractive presentation of the surrounds availing of this space to make a picnic area, a bird sanctuary and a pleasant vista in itself. Access to the interiors would be interesting but it is understood that there may be some hazards in that idea. The stone walls of the village and surrounds confer a nice character on the roadsides and further work on this was noticed in progress on the Castlereagh road. The business premises at the centre of the village look well painted and very clean. The church is attractive and the school and old school buildings contribute well to the built aspect of the village.

Landscaping:

Very good landscaping is provided at the Holland memorial park – this is a lovely feature and so well positioned so that it can be availed of so easily. The tree planting in this park has now matured very well and is making a strong impact. The well kept lawns and borders contribute to the colour and the central fountain feature adds a nice touch to the park. The landscape of tended grass around the ruined castle sets the castle off very well. The cemetery is maintained to a reasonably standard. Borders around the church give a nice softening touch to the cross roads and the school planting combines with the park outside. Individual gardens in the village surrounds contribute well to the overall landscape of the village by the maintenance of their own

road frontage gardens. Tree planting on the approach roads is a good feature and unites the village with the natural landscape of the surrounding countryside.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wild life / bird sanctuary is an interesting aspect and gives opportunity to observe birds visiting. Perhaps a more secluded area would also be used where more cover and variety of habitats exist. No doubt the Holland Park will attract too especially now that it has matured so well. The Sli na slainte walk provides good opportunity also for environmental appreciation. The old and new graveyards are interesting although the sight of an old disused yard adjacent at the top of the area where new house building is in progress is not attractive.

Litter Control:

There is a very good litter control system in place and only very small amounts of litter were spotted throughout the entire village. The bottle bank and signs to remind people about litter are excellent. The centre of the village was spotless and a welcome sight.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling centre is well presented and the signs reminding people about litter are very good. Segregation of litter is essential to good recycling. This aspect of the competition is about concentrating both on the need to choose materials and methods that avoid producing waste and to consider environmentally friendly ways of dealing with the waste that is generated. A campaign of awareness with both homeowners and business people needs to be started to give an understanding of the importance of waste management and recycling. Compost heaps can be made for green materials, avoidance of using materials that do not degrade easily and separation of the various materials so that they can be recycled.

Tidiness:

The village is very tidy and the orderly pattern of the cross roads at the centre of the village promotes this. Much material is stored outside the shops and while this may be very convenient for picking up supplies it is not the most attractive sight. As mentioned, the view from the new cemetery over the wall to the sheds and all the materials around the yard of that shed does not form a tidy picture. The well tended gates and walls confer a great level of tidiness on the village.

Residential Areas:

Two new residential building projects were noted. Hopefully these will be finished in such a way as to tie into the village structure in a well construed way. The entrances and open spaces need to be well landscaped and the gardens need to be tended from the start to give a good presentation overall. In this regard tree planting is essential so that the estates can relate well to the surrounding countryside rather than appear as if they have been dropped straight out of a city suburb. The older houses are well maintained and the manner in which residences and business houses are side by side gives a very integrated aspect to the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads are well tended and at the same time are not manicured to look in any way artificial. The lamps with underground cables are a great step forward where this work has been completed. The stone walls give very good definition to the roadsides and create a neat and clean effect. The village square looks very well and the standards in the village centre of roadways and signs is very good

General Impression:

Ballintubber continues to stride on with a very high degree of attention to detail and this pays off very well giving a very attractive village to visit