

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyfarnon** Ref: **291**
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **238**
Category: **B** Date(s): **01/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	238

Overall Development Approach:

Considerable efforts have been made in compiling the submissions with the entry form. This is much appreciated and gives a fair insight to the activities of the tidy towns committee in Ballyfarnon. The five year plan is a great guide to focus on in the coming years. Many aspects of the town have been considered here and with good determination success will be achieved with this plan. General care and maintenance is mentioned in the plan which is indeed important as regardless of new developments that may occur the maintenance aspect is vital from year to year. The photographs submitted were very useful and gave a good insight particularly in regard to the meaning of the memorials within the town.

The Built Environment:

The town buildings comprise a range of styles from the three story Ballyfarnon house to the new terrace infill housing approaching the Church. It is good to see housing replacing any derelict buildings and forming part of the core of the village rather than having housing estates sprawling through the surrounding countryside. Many towns and villages are being destroyed by building developments at present and a watchful eye should be kept on planning applications so that you can be alerted to anything that would interfere with the integrity of the core village elements. There is a good standard of paint and general decor through the town, the Courthouse/Coillte building looks well and is in a very dominating position in the town. The seat outside provides a pleasant view of the town from on high. The two memorials are tastefully presented and it is marvelous that such local interest is commemorated as it is. Mention was made of the rears of buildings in last years reports and this is an issue that many people in towns and village are now addressing. On ascending the hill to the new houses – looking back is not a pretty sight. The stone used in the bridge is very effective.

Landscaping:

The most striking landscape achievement is the beautiful garden by the river. This habitat garden is a very restful place, well designed and very carefully maintained and a tribute to those who care for it. The construction of paving and containerised plants around the recycle bank helps to present this well. The silver birch trees by the Jose McDermott memorial are a good choice. The landscaping along the Catholic Church looks very well. The positioning of plant containers and flower borders in the town helps to brighten up the streets and provides a sparkle of summer colour.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The bird survey serves well to create an awareness of the value of the natural environment with the school children – well done to those school children for this project. Similar projects could be done identifying plants in various locations or combining historical events or family names with townland locations. The riverside walk is a lovely feature and the seating and well kept surrounds are impressive. Further walks may be possible and would be very helpful.

Litter Control:

There is a good level of litter control in the town. This can only come about with much effort so congratulations on this. The details of the litter survey submitted with the application form are a very useful work. The breakdown of litter types is interesting. By merely recording the various types it immediately brings home the fact that litter should be separated so that it can be effectively recycled. The finding that a major amount of the litter comes from being thrown out of cars is also interesting. The litter patrols, involvement of schoolchildren, weekly cleanups and the poster used, must all contribute well to the present standard of litter care.

Waste Minimisation:

Mention is made in the entry of the work of segregating materials in the litter. Businesses have also been involved in waste management plans which are very encouraging. The Green school initiative is also helpful. 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:

Looking at the photographs presented with the entry – the tyre factory demolition was a very positive step particularly as it was replaced well. Sometimes old buildings become an eyesore and the only solution is to remove them – this applies to some of the old type corrugated iron sheds that are often to the back or side of buildings. Attention to Kerbside weeds is important. Plastic protruding signs from business premises may often be a cause of untidiness too. The cleaning of signs and painting of lampposts is helpful.

Residential Areas:

The residential housing is very much in the town centre which creates a good community spirit. Houses appear well cared for and well presented and painted. The new infill housing appears to fit in very well. Houses on O'Carolan Drive are well presented although the road surface in this area is deplorable. Houses on the road above the town are attractive but need the road frontage areas and boundaries completed and given a proper finish.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to the town have a good level of care applied without being too manicured. It is good that the natural grass verges and hedge rows come close to the town. The road surfaces are satisfactory within the town with the exception as mentioned above. The lamp standards look very well through the town.

General Impression:

Ballyfarnon is an attractive town with lovely riverside setting. The style of the core of the village is compact and makes for a good atmosphere. The involvement of many of the residents in one way or another in projects gives a good community spirit.