

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballymurphy** Ref: **34**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **248**
Category: **A** Date(s): **23/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	248

Overall Development Approach:

Ballymurphy is a very attractive, thriving village in attractive Co. Carlow at the foot of Mount Leinster. Your busy committee has 16 members and other voluntary help. There was much activity and attention to flowerbeds and grass on the day of the visit.

We note also the support of local business and LEADER scheme.

Well done also on your communications through the media and schools. It is not clear however how often you meet as a group.

The Built Environment:

Along the main street are a number of interesting buildings with the centre piece being the Church and graveyard with Mount Leinster behind. Along the road side are a mix of single and two storey small scale buildings with a new pump and attractive grotto on the opposite side. The old forge building had been partly demolished in an accident at the sharp bend at the end of the village on the corner of the Killealy Road. There is a well maintained national school. The 'Fenelons and Daughters' Hilltop bar has a good sign and there is an old post office sign adjacent.

Landscaping:

All planting is of a high standard and welcome work is being undertaken on all approach areas with the exception of the two areas mentioned below on the Graiguenamanagh road from the south. The new entrance wall and housing development on the Graiguenamanagh road are landscaped to a high standard, as is the Moycullen approach road with a new piece of sculpture and picnic area. Generally signs are poorly maintained.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The two Sli na Slainte walks are in operation. The school wildlife area behind the building was being maintained.

Litter Control:

This was a very high standard on the day of the inspection with the exception of outside the Community Centre where the waste recycling area is located. On the day of the inspection there were four recycling units for bottles and cans in front of the community centre with bags of recyclable material which had not been sorted. This still does not appear to be well managed and litter is getting into the field behind the centre.

Waste Minimisation:

To perform to a high standard under this heading it is necessary too encourage all sectors of the community to survey the amount of waste generated by themselves and to formulate strategies to minimise the amount produced, as opposed to simply collecting waste for recycling. We anticipate a performance of excellence under this heading in the years to come given your track record to date in every other respect. The race against waste booklet included in this year's Tidy Towns pack contains a number of good ideas on this.

Tidiness:

The entrance to the community centre is still rough and potholed. There are also some derelict buildings on the approach from Graiguenamanagh which should be screened, preferably by planting and or painting. There are still weeds around the phone box nearby. There are interesting local style gates in locations. Also there is a selection of signs in most areas which should be rationalised and painted and pressure might be brought on the Carlow County Council to do this. The general appearance is however one of tidiness.

Residential Areas:

Houses continue to be very neat, well maintained and landscaped. The new development on the Graiguenamanagh road consists of pleasant, unpretentious single storey dwellings which are in sympathy and scale with the rest of the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roads are generally very well maintained with a lot of traditional dry stone walls. These have been used very effectively. The Killealy approach walls are particularly attractive with their flourishing colourful floral displays. The school similarly has been well maintained but a new coat of paint on the wall may help at this stage. The verges and edges in the village are well maintained while those outside are agreeably natural and with verdant growth.

The pump house opposite the school should be taken in hand as should the derelict areas on the Graiguenamanagh Road.

General Impression:

The village offers a very attractive and traditional aspect with new and old retaining a harmonious mix which mostly is in scale in relation to the church and Mount Leinster in the background.