

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinagh** Ref: **905**  
County: **Cavan** Mark: **169**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **10/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	5
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	10
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>169</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Ballinagh area was entered as part of the drive by SuperValu to work with communities to approve the environmental standards of their areas through participation in the National TidyTowns Competition. Areas were entered on the basis that they fall within the catchment area of the nearest SuperValu store and this 'baseline assessment' is intended to provide a basis on which progress could be made over the coming years through partnership with residents, businesses and local agencies. As such it should not be interpreted as a critique of the area but rather an opportunity for everybody to work together to make their hometown a better place to work, live and visit. As part of SuperValu's strategic approach to sustainable development in the area, a nominal mark has been given to reflect this. Further marks will be awarded in future years where more tangible TidyTowns structures are developed and local environmental plans prepared and implemented. This is particularly relevant to Ballinagh where a successful TidyTowns group once existed.

### The Built Environment:

Pauline's fashions was nicely decorated and had four nice flower arrangements outside it. The Thai and Chinese restaurant was well presented. A building beside B& F Stores was being renovated, and there was a cream coloured house across the road that was badly in need of painting. Barney Mac's, Wright Bookmakers and Headmasters appeared to be all under the one roof and are tidy and fresh. Ronnies looked very good. Casey's steak bar stood out, as did the take away nearby. Fitzpatrick's bar looked very good. On the Granard road a few premises are eye catching such as Mace, Movie Planet and Gaynors plus Lowry's two premises. The Millennium Tavern and Cronin's Undertakers houses were freshly painted and decorated with a good arrangement of flowers. Murtagh's Pharmacy stood out. Ballinagh furniture is an old building that resembles a ballroom put to new usage, it is bright downstairs but some weeds were growing over a window. Ballinagh Mission Hall is a neat old building and had trim grass growing in front and attractive hedging at the side. The Garda Station looked well, but part of the wall outside was broken. The Credit Union looked smart

as did Centra and Blind Designs is a nice two storey building. Reilly Auctioneer and Brendan's barbers stood out.

The library is situated in a yard off the main street alongside what looked like a FÁS building, and both looked a bit neglected with vegetation in the gutters and a broken window. The house with the P Fitzpatrick on the wall on the Crossdoney road had vegetation in the gutters and was very shabby in need of painting. The Catholic Church is a fine modern structure with a very tall belfry.

### **Landscaping:**

The landscaping in the graveyard at the Catholic church is of a very high standard and sets of the church in the background in a spectacular fashion. There are a few mountain ash trees planted on the Granard road. Outside Scoil Naisúnta there is a big green area that was nicely landscaped with some good young trees. There were a few flowers beds on the way into the school in fine stone surrounds, but there were a lot of weeds amongst the flowers. At the crossroads there were two flower beds, but again there was lots of weeds amongst the flowers. On the roadside outside FÁS and the Library there were three concrete made containers for flowers with some flowers in them, and there were some flowers growing outside B & F Stores.

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

There is lots of cover around the village and in the outskirts for a variety of wildlife, and perhaps a study could be undertaken to establish the habitats of the wildlife.

### **Litter Control:**

There was only limited control of litter with a few public litter bins, and I felt that there could be more litter bins introduced to cater for the increased population of the town. The footpaths had the familiar scattering of cigarette ends and were stained in many areas from the residue of chewing gum. The Mace shop had litter bins outside the premises. There was a signpost put on the Cavan road by the County Council that read adopt a road litter programme and another little signpost read that the next kilometre is maintained by Centra, Ballinagh, but there was lots of litter scattered on the road verges.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Without details of ongoing community projects, it was difficult to assess the extent of progress being made under this category and I would look forward to seeing whether progress has in fact been made on future assessments. However taking into account the existing council facilities and SuperValu's own commitment in this area, I believe a nominal mark is appropriate for this year. There are however plenty of ways in which local communities can assist in tackling this growing problem, such as promoting best practice in local businesses and schools, encouraging household composting through local workshops and lobbying for access to appropriate recycling facilities. How this has been achieved in other areas, and indeed many other useful tips, is contained in the Race Against Waste community booklet available from the Tidy Towns Unit in the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

### **Tidiness:**

Going into the Catholic Church there are old rusted galvanised sheds to the left that are a blemish to the view. There was a consistency of weeds growing throughout the town, and the worst effected area was the yard outside the library. There is a derelict house alongside Ronnies fruit & veg that looked very dishevelled. The Market House is a fine old substantial building recessed back from the street, but there was some building materials stored untidily in front of it.

### **Residential Areas:**

I got the impression that Ballinagh is expanding as if it was a suburb of nearby Cavan town as there are a lot of new houses under construction.

Some of the estates caught my attention notably a small little estate on the Kilnaleck road that did not have a nameplate, it was very well landscaped. All the houses are on the left hand side of the road and across the road there is a well kept extensive lawn with suitable young trees and a superb laurel hedge at the back. Ashgrove has some good houses. Near the Ballinagh GAA club there are some good houses. The Seangharrai Drive has a small shrub area on the way into it, there is a fine green around this crescent of houses and the grass was growing towards meadow status and some shrub areas were in need of attention. The red brick houses on the Cavan road had lots of weeds growing on the footpath, and another estate to the rear looked good. There was a fine stretch of houses in a ribbon development fashion on the Cavan road, and one in particular a two storey cream coloured house stood out as it was well adorned with six half barrels of splendid floral arrangements. A housing estate on the left going to Cavan was expertly landscaped and had an amenity area with garden furniture. Village Mar is a small estate with a nameplate fixed to the wall on the Crossdoney road, it is nicely maintained and the grass in green areas was tidy. On the Granard road Ard Kill Place is a fine estate under construction consisting of 3,4 and 5 bedroom

houses. A number of houses are developed on this road in a ribbon development fashion, mostly new houses built amongst some traditional country style residences.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

All the County Council signposts had small flower beds situated under them that were left in an untidy fashion, and overgrown with weeds. The large signpost for Arvagh and Killeshandra across the road from the service station was damaged. The best approach road was the main Cavan road. The worst approach road is the Granard road and there was a growth of Ragwort on the roadside and there is some disruption caused by the building at Ard Kill Place

**General Impression:**

Ballinagh is expanding at a steady rate. It has potential to be improved for the satisfaction of the residents and for people that visit the area. It could be greatly improved with the further planting of trees around the town to soften the look of the buildings.