

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyhaise** Ref: **1427**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **197**
Category: **A** Date(s): **11/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	400	197

Overall Development Approach:

Ballyhaise 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.

The Built Environment:

The two churches gives a visually striking impact as both of them are situated on hill tops at different approach roads to the town. The Church of Ireland is a traditional random stone constructed church and has a well maintained graveyard all around it.

The St Mary the Virgin Catholic Church overlooks the town. It was attractive with adorns of neat summer flowers, nice laws and shrub areas and sported two Cedar of the Lebanon trees.

Scoil Muire has a pleasant shrubbery and nice formal playground. It has a prefab extension.

Lakeland Dairies premises is a blemish to the landscape, as it had a deserted look with weeds growing on the roof and around its large site. It is advertised for sale.

There is an attractive stone bridge over the Annalee river which has six recesses to enable pedestrians to step into them to let traffic pass.

Ballyhaise Agricultural College is located in a picturesque setting and is an imposing and elegant large College building.

The Gala shop is a busy premises and nicely landscaped outside, and nearby Donohue's lounge bar and grocery was well presented. James Brady's Lounge looked well and the Post Office nearby was cheerful. Ballyhaise Community Centre is a good town hall with a well maintained lawn to the front. Hyland Hardware is a busy hardware outlet fenced off from the road.

Landscaping:

Landscaping is mainly confined to the individual efforts of house holders, GAA club, church authorities and business people, and overall the town looked very well – clean and tidy. The spacious GAA grounds are very well maintained and gave a fine visual impact looking down from the road.

Some landscaping was noted outside Oakwood Crescent.

Ballyhaise Amenity Park is a well laid out amenity area with a tarmac park and is well planted with fine trees. However, it had a neglected look about it once one drove into the car-park as the first thing to be seen is the County Council signpost for the amenity area which is dirty and faded, and a signpost erected to acknowledge European Community support for the project was defaced with paint.

There were two suitable bar benches and a neat table in a large green, but the grass was left uncut for a few weeks.

A fine tarmac pathway led down to a neat little bridge over a stream and on up to a second green area with three bar benches, but again in the second green the grass was untidy.

There is a very pleasant view across the amenity greens, which is bordered on one side by the river Annalee, which has a couple of ring safety buoys in position along by the side of the river.

The neglected look referred to above changed to absolute neglect as I was amazed to find that there were a couple of man holes of about eighteen inches in width that did not have adequate man hole covers. In the front field they were covered with bollards turned upside down that were stuffed into them, but incredibly there were no covers on the ones in the second field. They looked to me to be quite dangerous as the holes were a few feet deep. The bring bank was located up at the back of the second field and had an entrance from a side road. Near the bring bank there was a pallet left in the green that had five new sturdy County Council type litter bins that were tied together with straps. They appeared to left there for some considerable time because some corrugated packing paper was faded and thorn. All the new bins were full completely with rubbish of various types.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The amenity area could be a fine natural amenity with the Annalee river flowing nearby.

Litter Control:

Litter was strewn about in the amenity park in abundance, there was a litter bin in the car park and it was full and other litter was thrown about it. There was a lot of litter in the second field and especially around the bring bank. Litter was to be found in other areas around the town, and down outside Lakelands.

Waste Minimisation:

The bring bank was certainly working as it was being used on the day, but some litter and rubbish was thrown about. It could be productive to assist the school to participate and attain the green flag for the school. The slogan reduce, recycle and reuse says it all.

Tidiness:

The Lakeland Dairies premises is in a bad state and gives a very bad impression on entering the town. There is a levelled off site across the road from the Seven Towns Park that has builders rubble strewn on it and appeared to be dangerous to walk on.

Residential Areas:

I got the impression that this town is expanding as a kind of suburb of nearby Cavan town as there is extensive construction of houses taking place.

In many of the new estates there is a lot of attention paid to landscaping.

Churchview has nice town houses with an attractive signpost for the estate.

There is a neat housing estate (no Name) at the back of the school.

Across from Donohue's pub there are some nice town houses, and there are some more attractive town houses across from Ballyhaise Community Centre.

There is a small estate (no name), which I was told is called Seven Towns Park.

Another small estate - Woodlands has its name in cut stone outside.

Some fine houses are facing across towards the GAA pitch.

Oakwood Crescent is nicely landscaped with attractive houses and a spacious green festooned with a group of trees.

Annalee Manor is an attractive estate containing a mix of semi detached and detached houses, with good name plates at the entrance. It boasts a large green area, each house seemed to have a tree planted outside it, however the grass is carelessly maintained.

There are fine houses on the main approach roads and on the Annalee side road that are developed in a ribbon fashion. Most of these houses are well maintained and tastefully landscaped.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the main roads approaching the town there are unique timber signposts, one has the effigy of a bovine animal carved on it and the other has the effigy of a fish. There is a great stone wall outside Ballyhaise College, it is about four feet high and extends for a few hundred yards. The side of the road outside Hyland Hardware is left in an uneven and dangerous condition.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Ballyhaise for the first time, and the town has potential to do very well in the future in the Tidy Towns Competitions.