

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Ballyjamesduff** Ref: **964**  
County: **Cavan** Mark: **175**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **28/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	5
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	11
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>175</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Ballyjamesduff Tidy Towns Committee is welcome back to the competition after an absence of five years. We're pleased to hear a new committee has been formed and look forward to an enthusiastic and vibrant burst of activity over the coming years! It is certainly a large one, which will be useful to your work. Your attention to dereliction and conservation are to be applauded. You have yet to forge links with local statutory bodies so this should be done without delay. The County Council are an obvious start, especially the Environmental Officer, Heritage Officer and Conservation Officer. Your first steps should be to formulate a plan of campaign in the form of a Work Programme of 3, 4 or 5 years duration. This should outline your plans and objectives and set a time-frame for achieving them. It need only be a few pages long, and should cover each of the different categories of the competition.

### **The Built Environment:**

There was a deal of inconsistency amongst presentation standards of premises in the town. The modern Catholic Church was admired with its well maintained and lush grounds. The Cavan County Museum building behind was in need of repainting and the gates to the National School in this location were also in need of attention. The Garda Station was well presented. The old hall adjacent was also in good repair. The Old Market forms an elegant centrepiece, although the adjudicator was disappointed to note its original sash windows had been replaced. In terms of commercial premises, of note were Townhouse Gifts in its prominent location. It sported attractive window boxes and matching hanging baskets were noted at the attached house. The Percy French Hotel was fresh. The Credit Union and Pharmacy and also looked well. The Post Office and Langtry's Bar were also admired. The old shopfront in purple on Market Street was admired - it sported its original sash windows but was in need of a fresh coat of paint. Two derelict properties on Chapel Street looked most unfortunate and were in such a bad state of repair that weeds were growing wildly inside! There is a lot of infill development in the town - make sure that it doesn't dwarf existing vernacular premises. The

boundary wall of the Health Centre and Library needed a fresh coat of paint. St Clare's College and grounds were admired but more tree planting here would be advisable. The basketball back boards were damaged and should be replaced.

### **Landscaping:**

The paving in front of the Market House and incorporated Percy French monument were admired and we note plans for a fountain in this location. Some attractive hanging baskets and window boxes were seen on a number of premises. The planted area by the town nameplate on the Virginia side of the town was admired. The playground at the County Museum was quite fresh. There would appear to be scope for further expansion in this category of the competition. The provision of planters is admirable but do ensure that you have permanent planting and tree planting as well as flowers to ensure the town looks well year-round. The clean up of the riverbank area is looked forward to.

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

We were surprised to see that you had noted this category of the competition as "not applicable" in your application form! It is indeed applicable, no matter how large or urban in nature the town may be! Have you considered drawing up a survey of wildlife habitats in your area? With the river and wealth of mature trees in the town you will be in an ideal position. It could be set for the local schoolchildren as a project, with the help of local experts. You should also consider then putting together a wildlife management plan based on these findings and some wildlife information boards in key locations, indicating the species that may be seen. This could be incorporated with a riverside walk and Heritage Trail.

### **Litter Control:**

The standard on the day could have been better in this category of the competition. There was a scattering throughout, including a large amount of litter to the pavement opposite the Credit Union and more scattered at the crossroads and on the avenue leading to the school. A single bottle was noted on the Virginia road. The participation in the spring clean is laudable, but it is recommended that an active litter patrol is put in place.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

There was some evidence of dumping at the recycling area at the Co-Op. This area appeared a little rough and would benefit from a rationalization. This category of the competition also relates to how you manage your own recycling - do you segregate litter from your pick ups? It also considers how you communicate this issue to local businesses, schools and households. It would be worthwhile talking to the Environmental Officer in Cavan County Council in order to get some guidance on this.

### **Tidiness:**

Don't neglect rear areas, outbuildings and yards when considering overall presentation. Some outbuildings on the Virginia approach looked quite neglected. A yard area on the road to the library looked messy and should be screened from public view. The canopy to the garage looked in need of attention, as it was damaged, although the rose beds in this location were admired.

### **Residential Areas:**

What strikes the visitor when approaching from Virginia, is the sheer sea of houses that are visible from this road! There are a large number of new housing estates and we note your plans for landscaping and providing nameplates for them and this is certainly a start in terms of catering for all these new houses. The existing mature houses on the Virginia Road - especially the creeper clad ones were greatly admired. Some glorious planting was noted to a garden extending to the roadside opposite the entrance to the Catholic Church. There were other attractive gardens along this road. Court Crescent was admired but would benefit from additional landscaping. Some of the street houses looked in need of a fresh coat of paint. Some of the boundaries to houses on the Cavan Road were a little grubby. Ashford Downs was admired for its stone wall and fragrant lavender planted at the entrance.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The Virginia Road was well maintained, the stone bed at the nameplate was admired but there is scope for further landscaping here. We look forward to the new bi-lingual street signage - currently it is difficult for the visitor to get his or her bearings when walking around the town! On the Cavan Road, directional signage was in need of attention. The grassy banks had been cut but dead grass not removed. The hedgerows were admired. Do ensure that bird-nesting times are taken into account when cutting these. Road surfaces were a little rough, on the Cavan Road, the road to the library and in the vicinity of the hardware shop.

### **General Impression:**

Ballyjamesduff is a town with a wealth of history attached to it. It has the potential to perform well in the competition, as it is a town with a great deal of character. You will need to formulate a work programme for it before next year's competition.