

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Ballinfad** Ref: **1411**  
County: **Sligo** Mark: **173**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **10/08/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	24
Landscaping	50	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	11
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	23
General Impression	10	4
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>173</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Ballinfad is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition. Your village is located in scenic countryside overlooking Lough Arrow and set against a backdrop of hills. Scenic views of Lough Arrow are accessible on entering Ballinfad from the N4. The village is also located on the Frugal River and handsome views of the church and the castle within the village are available from the N4 which should be preserved in the event of future development. It is important to prepare a three year work programme for the village and to submit this next year together with a rural place map identifying you activities to be judged.

### **The Built Environment:**

The church and its grounds together with its stone boundary wall is a most handsome feature of Ballinfad. The memorial stone to the McDonagh Brothers celebrates your musical tradition. The Angler's Rest premises appears to be vacant, keep us informed of future plans for these premises. The Mayfly Bar could be painted to freshen its appearance and its curtilage area needs to be tidied. The Hall past the National Wildlife and Parks Services premises is in need of attention also together with its curtilage area. The design of building materials used for the National Parks premises is admirable however the curtilage area here could be improved. The HB sign should be removed from the roadside façade of the Post Office premises however the premises themselves look well.

### **Landscaping:**

The green open space overlooking Lough Arrow could be improved and the curtilage area of the National Parks and Wildlife Services building is in urgent need of landscaping. The slip road to the N4 might also be landscaped. In all landscaping activities chose species that are native to the area as these are more

supportive of wildlife.

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

Wildflowers and grasses are a feature of your roadside verges and these might be encouraged to enhance your performance under this heading. The outburst of large Oxeye daisies beside the Post Office was admired. The wildlife of the lake could be featured on an interpretative panel at the exit point to the lake. Ideally a wildlife survey should be undertaken and featured on interpretative panels at a number of locations around the village.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was excellent in Ballinafad on adjudication day, well done. In future years submit details of your litter management activities as these can attract additional marks, activities such as litter picking patrols, litter segregation for recycling and participation in the National Spring Clean Week are relevant.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

As a recycling point was not noted in Ballinafad and there appears to be no evidence of recycling or waste minimisation you have attracted nominal marks under this heading. You might consider having a recycling point located in the village, you also may consider orchestrating community composting as a way of reducing waste and undertaking a community waste audit to identify the amount of waste generated within the community. These types of activities will help attract marks under this heading.

### **Tidiness:**

The site accommodating the tanker is problematic as are weedy footpaths, the base of walls and weedy curtilage areas. Hopefully the overhead service cables will be ducted at some stage in the future and lighting provided on attractive lamp standards rather than on timber service poles.

### **Residential Areas:**

On-street dwellings are nicely painted and there are some attractive flower displays in window boxes and hanging baskets, well done to those responsible. The roadside boundary wall of the dwelling located beside the Bar is in need of improvement and weedy footpaths should be eliminated from the Arrow Court development which was a work in progress at the time of adjudication. It is good to note that the new small estate has retained its stand of trees. More attractive gates could be provided at the entrance to the National Parks and Wildlife Services premises. Encourage residents to take responsibility for communal areas and areas to the roadside of their boundary walls and indeed to become involved in the Tidy Towns initiative.

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

Roadside verges at the eastern entrance to the village were overgrown and looked a little untidy to the extent that the road sign was engulfed in growth together with the name plate and the village renewal sign. Reference has already been made to the overhead service cables and timber service poles. The telephone kiosk could be cleaned. The road to the castle looks disheveled and in a bad state of repair, the building materials here should be removed. All approach roads were overgrown at their verges.

### **General Impression:**

The village has considerable potential to be successful in the competition given its proximity to Lough Arrow and its rural setting however attention to detail is necessary.