

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballintogher** Ref: **862**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **257**
Category: **A** Date(s): **29/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	257

Overall Development Approach:

Ballintogher Tidy Towns Committee seems to be quite a large one at 25 strong for the size of the village! But this must be to your advantage. You would appear to have a good working relationship with Sligo County Council, local businesses and FAS. Congratulations on being county winners last year! The development plan is sensible and achievable. The fact that you have analysed it in the form of progress reports to show the developments you have made is helpful and informative during the adjudication process. The photographs are most impressive.

The Built Environment:

Public buildings such as the Catholic Church were well maintained. Its attractive gold and blue mosaic above the door at the tower entrance was admired. Could further landscaping in terms of tree planting be considered in this location? The enterprise units were neat and well presented. There are a lot of premises for sale in the village including the Church of Ireland. It is to be hoped that these will be retained in their present form as too many villages around the country are losing fine vernacular buildings to ongoing new development. It is essential that villages like Ballintogher retain their character. The creeper-clad Kingsfort House Guest House makes a good impression with its retention of original sash windows and discreet colour palette. It had a stone wall to the front and wonderful mature copper beech tree. The railings and gate at the school need repainting. The shop looked well but had a profusion of plastic signage which should be replaced.

Landscaping:

The stone wall and limestone circular feature opposite the Catholic Church was admired. The grotto appeared a little overgrown on the day with ivy and perhaps this could be cut back? Incidental landscaped spaces throughout make a good impression. The use of the nasturtiums as a recurring theme is most

effective. Those to the low stone wall backdrop opposite the Catholic Church looked most charming. We were delighted to see that the plants were grown by the local schoolchildren and this must make a marvellous impression on them to see how they can make such an impact on their own environment! Pots outside the school were admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The schoolchildren's involvement in seed collection and sowing is a very impressive initiative. The tree planting campaign is also a good idea, especially given that they are deciduous native varieties. The nature trails at the school and amenity areas are excellent projects. One was mentioned in last year's report as being located at the back of the Enterprise Centre. A lot of tree planting was noted to the housing estate opposite the football pitch. A very active rookery was evident on the day!

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was very good. There were one or two very small items of litter on the green space opposite the playing field and a single paper outside the school. Litter competition for the schoolchildren are a good idea. The participation of the youth of the village, in the form of the school and Foroige, in the litter pick ups is marvellous.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling area was neat and well maintained on the day. It is located quite discreetly and creates a good impression. The Green Flag was flying proudly at the school on adjudication day. Composting facilities in this location are a great idea. This category also relates to your efforts to promote waste management issues within your own organisation, as well as local businesses and households. It is important that they are aware of the options open to them in relation to this issue and that you help to make them aware of them. Do contact the Environmental Officer in Sligo County Council in relation to the various possibilities there are for promoting this category!

Tidiness:

The shed by the playing field was still in bad condition. A shed on the Main Street needed its tin roof repainted in its traditional red colour. Some graffiti was noted to directional signs in the village centre. A lovely vernacular outbuilding adjacent to the Enterprise Centre is very unusual. We noted it was also for sale and hope that it is retained rather than demolished.

Residential Areas:

Street houses were generally well cared for. Those opposite the shop looked well with attractive floral displays. The estate opposite the football pitch was well cared for and had an attractive planted bed to the roadside. The work you do in relation to estate landscaping is to your credit. A marvellous gravelled garden was noted beside the Catholic Church. It displayed marvellous red hot pokers, lupins and roses to the roadside in front of its fencing.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Daffodil planting along approach roads must have looked marvellous in springtime. Good luck with your plans in relation to under-wiring of cables and extension of footpaths. We look forward to seeing the stone townland nameplates. This has been used to great effect in nearby County Mayo. On the Ballycawley approach, the hedges and ditches had been cut back but the road surface was not in good order. The nasturtiums planted along the roadside looked very cheerful. Some of the signage appeared to have been painted out - was this intentional?

General Impression:

Ballintogher is an attractive village with much to offer resident and visitor alike. Do ensure it retains its unique character in the face of ongoing development!