

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballisodare** Ref: **749**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **229**
Category: **C** Date(s): **01/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	229

Overall Development Approach:

Ballisodare Tidy Towns Committee is welcome to the 2007 competition. We note from last year's report that you had put together a work programme which you submitted with your entry in 2005. Perhaps you could submit this each year so that the adjudicators can see how you are progressing and what your plans are for the town. Many thanks for your colourful map which was very useful on the day. You would appear to have a good working relationship with Sligo County Council and Leader. Plans for a new Community Pitch and playground at Abbey Drive are looked forward to. We sympathise with problems you are having regarding getting additional volunteers and would suggest that you try to garner support from residents in the new housing developments in the town. They will, hopefully, be keen to become involved in their local community! The clean up of St Felcin's graveyard was a marvellous initiative.

The Built Environment:

Most of the buildings on the Main Street looked well on the day. Of note were Toolan's, O'Connor's and the Ballisodare Pharmacy. Guys and Dolls, the Hardware Shop and the Post Office were also very fresh. St Mary's College and the nearby Catholic Church were well presented. The Dun Maeve had construction work taking place to it on the day. The attractive cast iron canopy opposite was admired and its retention is admirable. The square towered Holy Trinity Church of Ireland was admired in its prominent location. Some attractive vernacular buildings were noted adjacent to Mack's Tackle Shop and these should be cherished as fine examples of their kind. O'Connor's is an attractive shopfront. The Thatch on the Collooney Road was greatly admired and pots of flowers were admired here.

Landscaping:

The Ball Alley area was admired as was the Grotto, where the statuary had been freshly painted. Plans for a new art sculpture in this location are looked forward to. There is scope for further development in this

category of the competition. Perhaps when construction work has slowed down following this hectic time you can look at creating new landscaped entrances to the town and the possibility of tree planting along the Main Street? Both of these projects would make a marvellous difference to the town's appearance.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We were pleased that permission has been granted for a wildlife information board at Ball Alley and look forward to its erection. Have you any other projects in mind for this category? Consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas for furthering this aspect of the competition.

Litter Control:

Litter control was an issue in the town on the day. Problem areas were along the Ballina Road, the Collooney Road and on the Sligo approach. There was also a light scattering all along the Main Street. Litter patrols by the National School and yourselves is laudable, as is your participation in National Spring Clean, but perhaps more frequent patrolling is to be considered?

Waste Minimisation:

We were pleased to hear of St John's National School working towards its Green Flag and your support - both financial and practical for them. Segregation of litter in the Spring Clean is laudable. Have you any other projects in mind for this category? Consult with your local Environmental Officer in Sligo County Council for ideas in this regard.

Tidiness:

Weed control was a problem to the bases of stone boundary walls and kerbs on the Ballina Road. Otherwise the town looked quite neat given the amount of construction work taking place.

Residential Areas:

Some of the boundary walls to bungalows along the Ballina Road were a little grubby – possibly due to the amount of through traffic from construction sites in the town! The Cluain Dara Estate has matured and was admired for its attractive landscaping. A new housing estate was under construction at adjacent Oakbridge. Some attractive houses beside Toolan's were admired. The apartments on the Sligo side of the town seemed, to this adjudicator, rather out of scale with Ballisodare. Those opposite appear to have a slightly more appropriate scale and had some lovely landscaping. Salmon Court and Knockmuldowney Park were admired on this side of the town and were generally well landscaped with attractive banks. Work in this regard is to your credit. Two individual houses on the Sligo approach were admired for their gardens which extended colourfully to the roadside. The participation of estates in Sligo County Council Best Estates Competition is laudable and obviously paying off. The two storey vernacular house by the bridge opposite Dun Maeve was greatly admired, as it retains its original sash windows. There was a planning notice spotted in its window and it is to be hoped that any development will retain the existing house in this prominent location.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Ballina approach road seemed somewhat overgrown on the day. Road surfaces were in bad condition and needed resurfacing. The modern metal bridge was badly in need of a fresh coat of paint. There still seems to be an immense amount of traffic passing through the town on the road to Ballina, despite the bypass to Sligo.

General Impression:

Ballisodare is set in some spectacular scenery and is fortunate to have some marvellous natural amenities at its disposal. It has undergone an immense amount of development in a short space of time. It is now time to take stock of your approach to this issue to ensure the town retains its unique character.