

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyneale** Ref: **630**
County: **Tipperary (South)** Mark: **216**
Category: **A** Date(s): **26/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	26
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	2
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	216

Overall Development Approach:

Ballyneale is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your application form and helpful enclosures containing a village map together with your work programme. Ballyneale is a charming village situated on the Tipperary Plain, between the mountain ranges of Slievnamon to the north and the Comeraghs to the south. Your committee of 6 people has been successful in obtaining a grant from Tipperary South County Council and engaging with the local Church Newsletter, and indeed the local newspaper, in an effort to spread the message. The work programme submitted, together with the village map, was of great assistance to the adjudicator.

The Built Environment:

Josie O'Neill's Bar, Lounge and Groceries premises form the commercial core of this settlement. The building is extremely attractive in its composition and an example of good Irish vernacular village architecture. The building is well presented with a pleasant colour scheme. The sign on the main building is also of good quality, but the Bar and Grocery sign on the annex portion of the building needs some attention. The public buildings, the Church and school, were both beautifully maintained and add hugely to the status of the village. The burial grounds of the Church were neat and tidy. This is important as they command the focal point of the village. The school was indeed impressive and the plaque announcing their achievement in winning an environmental award is noted. The school grounds are surrounded by some fine trees to the west, north and east boundaries, while the shrubbery to the front was neat and well-maintained. The multi-purpose playing court was nicely presented. It is noted that new housing is to be constructed in the village and it is to be hoped that the attractive stone wall and the village pump will be incorporated into the new construction.

Landscaping:

It was again a pleasure to note that the tree-planting programme is ongoing and the beech hedge opposite the school is maturing nicely. The flowerbed opposite the Church provided a nice splash of colour to the village centre, however, the strand of barbed wire on top of the wall looked untidy. Perhaps, if possible, a line of deciduous trees could be planted in this location and, in time, the enclosure they would provide would create the atmosphere of a village square.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well Done to the school for including the nesting boxes and bird tables to the front of the school. The earlier suggestion of the survey of local birds is an excellent one and if information panels were provided on wildlife it would provide a further area of interest in the village. The provision of these information boards would further reinforce the existing historical board located adjacent to the school and the Thomas F. Kiely memorial plaque adjacent to the Church.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent on the day of adjudication, excepting a small amount of litter in the carpark area opposite the Church. No doubt the engagement of the South Tipperary County Council sweeper lorry together with the local voluntary effort is paying dividends.

Waste Minimisation:

It is good to note that the Council refuse collection and recycling service is being well used by the residents. The school project was neatly presented and well located. This adjudicator notes that segregated packages had been delivered to the site on the day.

Tidiness:

Weed growth is still a problem in some areas around the village. Some untidy yards still remain close by the Josie O'Neill's premises. The previous suggestion of screening would provide a simple solution to this problem. It was noted that the community sports field is maturing nicely and grassing is now completed.

Residential Areas:

It is noted that a new residential area is to be constructed in the village and a nameplate is to be erected on the Castle View estate. This scheme was well presented and neat and tidy, but one undeveloped site close by the roadside was overgrown and in need of attention. Congratulations on the new stone wall which has been erected opposite the local hall.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Clonmel Approach Road is tree-lined and contains an attractive stone wall newly refurbished. There is an overriding theme of attractive stone walls on all approaches. This is a feature of the village also. It is to be hoped that any new developments will respect this asset.

General Impression:

Ballyneale continues to make progress in the Tidy Towns competition and no doubt the committee's continued efforts will enhance the village in its uniquely attractive setting.