

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyjamesduff** Ref: **964**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **199**
Category: **D** Date(s): **16/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	26
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	10
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	199

Overall Development Approach:

Ballyjamesduff is welcome to the National TidyTowns Competition in this its 50th Anniversary year. Thank you for your excellent submission, we note the absence of a planned work programme and urge you to forward one or a plan summary with each year of entry. We acknowledge that the committee is in its infancy having only been established in 2007 and suggest logging on to the TidyTowns website at www.tidytowns.ie for useful information and resource material on competing. Well done on your consultation with a variety of experts ranging from litter wardens to the area engineer, horticulturalist, heritage officers, council officials and many more; this type of research is a good foundation for plan implementation. It is good to note your aspiration to involve the national school (St Clare's 5th class) and that you make good use of local media to communicate the TidyTowns message. Your application for funding for walks is an excellent initiative and we wish you every success.

The Built Environment:

Buildings in general are well presented in the town and the presentation of the Cavan County Museum is excellent. St Clare's Primary School was admired also for its presentation. The redeveloped Market Houses is another excellent building. There are many shops in Ballyjamesduff and lots of potential for achieving a shopfront award however it is important that shop-owners consider their use of signs at fascia level and also the positioning of posters and window stickers in doors and windows as these can spoil a potentially good presentation; the use of roller shutters to the outside of shopfronts can have a deadening effect on streetscapes after business hours; shutters can be placed inside the window and an attractive window display with internal lighting can be featured which gives the town a lively appearance at night. Well done on the refurbishment of The Crowe's Nest premises and the new national school, we wish you every success with funding for the redevelopment of the Courthouse.

Landscaping:

The Market House amenity area is a fine development in the heart of the village; maturing trees on wide streets give a graceful appearance to the streetscape. Landscaping to the grounds of the Cavan County Museum were admired also. We note your plan to develop stone flowerbeds on approach roads into the town with a year-round interest featuring new granite signs, we wish you success for funding in this initiative. Regarding landscaping of the banks of the River Inny remember to use native species only as ornamental species are inappropriate in public places of natural beauty, also native species are supportive of wildlife.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The sports grounds clubhouse and walls have been nicely painted and are awaiting resurfacing. The plan to clean the river bed with the help of transition year students and to engage them in carrying out a wild life study of the area and riverbank is an exciting initiative and we look forward to it materializing in the coming years. Hopefully your application to Fáilte Éireann for funding for the looped walk and Paddy Reilly Heritage Trail will be successful.

Litter Control:

Litter control was quite good in the village at the time of adjudication and what litter did exist and was mostly Takeaway litter. It is acknowledged that construction work is still ongoing and there is a limit to what can be achieved when this work is in progress however the weekly evening litter picks by the committee will no doubt make a big contribution to the maintenance of Ballyjamesduff litter free. Well done on engaging the services of litter wardens for the clearing out of derelict buildings where unauthorised dumping occurred. All litter collected should be segregated for recycling, the importance of this cannot be overstated

Waste Minimisation:

Well done on the use of the Bring Centre on the Granard Road for dumped materials, we note your request to place security cameras on sites that suffer from illegal dumping. The committee is correct in that regular emptying of the bottle banks will prevent dumping at the facility and we wish you success in achieving this. Your distribution of Waste Minimisation leaflets to businesses in the town is another good initiative. We look forward to the proposed involvement of the school in the Green Schools Programme in 2009. The undertaking of a community Waste Audit might be considered at some time in the future to determine the amount of waste generated by the community and devise strategies for reducing this; the goal is to minimise waste as well as recycling it.

Tidiness:

The overall appearance of Ballyjamesduff was one of tidiness and we note the survey undertaken by the Committee of all untidy and derelict buildings in the area; well done on the cleaning up of areas identified in last year's report. Your work on eliminating inappropriate weed growth is acknowledged. Untidy commercial yards that can be viewed from the public realm should be enclosed as an interim measure pending development.

Residential Areas:

The new apartments on the Mount Nugent entrance to Ballyjamesduff is an attractive development and landscaping here is aesthetically pleasing. Well done on your initiative with the county engineer regarding following up developers responsible for poorly maintained green areas; ultimately once these have been levelled and grassed they should be taken over by residents. Roadside areas to boundary walls of premises opposite the Gleneagles Furniture premises are problematic. Encourage all residents to take responsibility for communal green areas as well as their own gardens boundary walls and roadside area to boundary walls. The committee should consider organising estate competitions as a strategy to bring Tidy Towns awareness to new residents.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The wirescape free aspect of the centre of the village is a nice feature and lampstandards look well also. Road and footpath surfaces generally are to a good standard and newly surfaced areas bring a welcome improvement to the village. Well done on your participation in the 'Adopt a Road' scheme organised by Cavan County Council and it is good to note your success with three roads adopted by various businesses. Street furniture looks well.

General Impression:

At the time of adjudication roadworks were a significant feature of the appearance of Ballyjamesduff however allowances have been made for this and a significant increase in marks has been awarded based on the proactive approach by the new committee and to improvements seen on the ground.