

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinamore** Ref: **422**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **249**
Category: **B** Date(s): **27/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	249

Overall Development Approach:

Ballinamore is welcome to the National TidyTowns Competition in this its 50th anniversary year. Thank you for your excellent bilingual submission and TidyTowns action plan. Congratulations on working with all sectors of the community, schools, statutory bodies, business and residential. Well done also on your fund-raising activities and the distribution of flyers, parish notes and newspaper notices for the circulation of TidyTowns information

The Built Environment:

Ballinamore's building stock consists mostly of two and three-storey period buildings in the town centre some of which still retain their original architectural features. A number of shopfronts were admired and these include Cara Pharmacy, Bobby Joe's, the Forge and adjacent premises, to name just a few. New developments are finished to a high standard also. Public buildings such as the Church and Heritage buildings deserve a special mention also for their high standard of presentation. Schools were also well-presented on the Carrick On Shannon road. Discourage the use of posters and window stickers in the doors and windows of business premises as these can spoil an otherwise good presentation.

Landscaping:

The newly refurbished public amenity space at the church is excellent in design maintenance and presentation and all concerned with this development are to be commended. The fountain and amenity area is an attractive feature also and is well placed at the road junction. The John Joe McGirl memorial is also nicely presented. Landscaped green areas and the playground on Park Road are impressive. Hopefully the newly planted trees on the bypass road will survive to maturity and no doubt those that don't will be replaced. We wish you every success regarding the maintenance and presentation of the environs of the canal basin over the next few

years.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The River Park and its walks provide excellent recreation amenities for the townspeople. The duck and bird sanctuaries provide a different and equally valuable amenity opportunity. The walls of the sports grounds on Park Road could be planted with climbing plants to soften an otherwise harsh appearance here, perhaps the same treatment given to the planted walls at the top of the Newtowngore Road might be considered. A wildlife survey or indeed a bird survey might be undertaken and the results published on interpretive panels along the river and walks to promote an appreciation of wildlife.

Litter Control:

The overall standard of litter control was excellent on the day of adjudication well done on this achievement. A small amount of takeaway litter was noted at the sports grounds on the top of the Enniskillen Road which should not be allowed to become problematic. The problem caused by weekend revellers and schoolchildren after lunch breaks is appreciated. Well done on your co-operation with Leitrim County Council and its Litter Management Plan and thank you for the bi-lingual poster anti-litter poster. This is the first time this adjudicator anti-litter posters in the Latvian, Lithuanian, Russian, and African languages

Waste Minimisation:

Your recycling point is neatly presented and has been considered for an award. Congratulations to the students of the secondary schools for their participation in the Green Schools Programme. Hopefully the talks presented by the garden centre personnel on composting will get people thinking along these lines; perhaps a community composting initiative can be adopted. At some stage in the future a community waste audit might be considered with a view to establishing the amount of waste produced and devising strategies to reduce this.

Tidiness:

Underdeveloped sites on the Enniskillen road are problematic under this heading and an untidy garage premises near the bridge might also be rectified. The car park located behind the Court House together with the access lane and a number of sites along this path were very untidy. The overall appearance of Ballinamore is one of tidiness and allowances have been made for development sites where work is still in progress.

Residential Areas:

Dwellings lining the road on the entrance to the town from the Carrick On Shannon road looked well in their presentation particularly in respect of gardens. The Lahard estate also looks well particularly in relation to its communal green area. A number of roadside boundary walls at the New towngore entrance to Ballinamore are in need of attention. Well done on your representation to new residents in an effort to integrate them into the life of the community and to welcome them on board the TidyTowns movement.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Car-parking is orderly in the town centre and street furniture is generally well presented particularly street nameplates. Entrances from approach roads which include nameplates also in addition to roadside verges look well. It was a pleasure to note the wirescape free aspect of the main street. We look forward to the completion of the extension from the town square to Super Valu no doubt this will be adjudicated upon in next year's competition.

General Impression:

The overall appearance of Ballinamore is one of a vibrant hospitable town with a lot to offer both visitors and residents. Allowances have been made for problems created by work in progress eg building materials and equipment.