

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Ballinode** Ref: **585**  
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **233**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **02/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>233</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Ballinode is welcome to the TidyTowns Competition 2008. Thank you for your completed application form and map. The photographs too were of great assistance to the adjudicator. Your committee are commended on their regular meetings and it is refreshing to note that you are active throughout the years and not just during the summer months. Your participation in the Annual Spring Clean has been noted and indeed your photographs support this. You reiterate that judging takes place too early but unfortunately this cannot be altered due to the high volumes involved and if its any consolation everyone else is in the same boat! Your co-operation with the area engineer will be key to your progress as well as continued local support. You could yield extra points in this section by including a three year development plan, incorporating photos, aims, objectives etc

### **The Built Environment:**

The Monaghan approach to Ballinode surely offers one of the most charming sights as the cottages com inot view - they are truely delightful. The stone walls and bridge are wonderful features to have and are in good condition. Maguires forms a substantial part of the village and they are commended for the neatness of their yard. The community hall was freshly presented and McAvee was also tidy in appearance. Your ongoing work at Kerry Lees has been noted and it shows how an eyesore can be turned around. Well done!Centra looked well however, the planters outside should be replenished or removed. St. Dympna's Church of Ireland as ever looked well. Hanging baskets as Perfections added a welcome splash of colour. The seats and railing at the Riverside Park were admired but would benefit from a coat of paint/varnish before next years competition.

### **Landscaping:**

Three wonderful beds were admired on the Monaghan approach and the freshly painted fence added to the attractiveness of the area. Further along this road the planted bank added interest. The Riverside Park is a

wonderful asset to Ballinode and it was clear that a lot of time and effort goes into its upkeep. On the day of adjudication the flower bed had recently been planted and will no doubt be a sight to behold as the summer progresses. The trees planted by your committee in 2006 were noted and are, thankfully, thriving. Unfortunately the planters on the Clogher approach were quite overgrown.

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The fishing and wildlife boards were noted in the park. Have you considered a wildlife plan? Perhaps the Conservation Officer in Monaghan County Council could advise you in this regard as there are many points to be gained here. Your amenity at Quiglough is also a great asset so perhaps you could provide more information on its conservation.

#### **Litter Control:**

Again, your participation in the National Spring Clean is commended and is also a good way of publicising locally the importance of having pride in the appearance of the village. In general litter control is quite good in the village with an odd piece being spotted. A number of bins were noted and, as indicated by last years adjudicator, some were a little grubby and should be repainted before next year. There is one critical area in the village with regard to litter and that is the Sports Court. There was an abundance of plastic bottles and papers jammed between the mesh and the boundary, this is unacceptable - in addition to this more litter was located within the courts and in the river nearby despite the presence of a bin.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

We look forward to the signage to promote local waste management as indicated in your application form. Perhaps you could introduce a plastic bottle bin at the Sports Court? Please provide further information on your intentions regarding 'best practise' in this area. We look forward to the results of your planned workshop for October/November.

#### **Tidiness:**

The standard is set by the Monaghan approach road which all in all is neat and tidy in appearance. The red and green scheme of the poles and bins at compliment the cottages and perhaps this theme should extend to the extremities of the village. As you mention dereliction as a problem and you are commended on your efforts to overcome this. New developments also pose a temporary problem but will, in time, add to the appearance of the village when rubble is removed and surfaces are completed. A broken pallet, concrete blocks and rusted half-barrels in the Park detracted from an otherwise pristine appearance. Kerb side weeds should be addressed along the Clogher approach, Main St. and at the back of Riverside Close.

#### **Residential Areas:**

It is encouraging to note that each estate has their own committee and that there is co-operation with them and the TidyTowns Committee. Riverside Close was looking well on the day of adjudication. As mentioned earlier the cottages are charming to say the least! A fine period house opposite was also well presented. The thatched cottage at the far end of Ballinode was also admired and nearby houses on the opposing road looked well, particularly the one with the immaculately presented hedge. Many of the new 'one-off' residences are being finished to a high standard and the one opposite Maggie's was most impressive. There were many commendable houses and gardens on the Clogher Road too. However, in general residents should be encouraged to maintain boundary walls to the same high standard as their house.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

You have highlighted the problem opposite Centra and this has been noted. In general verges are a little overgrown on approach road and should be cut back no more than a foot. Having said that the Monaghan approach road is presented to a very high standard and this sets the benchmark in Ballinode.

#### **General Impression:**

Ballinode has a good basis to evolve through time and progress significantly in the TidyTowns Competition. You appear to have a good handle on problematic areas and are making progress with the relevant agencies to remedy these. You continue to make a difference and for this you are commended - keep it up!