

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Baltinglass** Ref: **263**  
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **207**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **07/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	29
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	21
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>207</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Baltinglass is welcomed back to the TidyTowns Competition. You were missed last year! Thank you for your clear map but please ensure to give street names in future years as this assists the adjudication process and makes it all the easier to allocate additional marks! You have quite a small committee for a rather large town so your strategy from promoting your work will hopefully yield more volunteers. Your ongoing co-operation with Fás, local businesses, Baltinglass Park Committee and Wicklow County Council is commended. You have indicated that you intend to involve the schools in your work and this is a marvellous idea – often when the children are on board parents too will volunteer their time. The 2006 adjudicator mentioned (in detail!) that the provision of a 3-5 Year Plan is advisable to show the strategic planning for the town and this will facilitate additional marks in the section. If possible you should also submit photographs of 'before' and 'after' projects have been completed.

### **The Built Environment:**

The Water Mill Bar looked marvellous and hanging baskets added a welcome splash of colour. The Pinnacle, Germaines and the Baltinglass Inn are fresh in their appearance. The new shop units on Edward Street were admired and will hugely improve the appearance of the street when they are open for business. Work was ongoing at the Bank of Ireland on the day of adjudication and we look forward to the completion of this by next year's competition. Hopefully the Bank will be repainted when the external work is complete. Millett & Matthews Solicitors looks great and a traditional shop front at Burkes was admired. The Credit Union is cleanly presented but could be enhanced further by some window boxes or carefully placed planters. A fine building nearing completion in this same area was admired for its granite lintels. The Teagasc Buildings and Schools are neatly presented and the Church and grounds are fantastic! As with most towns Baltinglass suffers from dereliction and vacant properties. It is clear that the town is in transition and we look forward to the results in the years to come.

**Landscaping:**

Neatly maintained grassy stretches were noted on the Dublin Road. The paved area at the monument and seat were immaculate. Your continued planting of trees will, in time, soften the streetscape. Remnants of daffodils were noted at a number of locations and it is refreshing to note that there is interest throughout the seasons. Baltinglass Park was admired for its well-trimmed grass and maturing hedge rows. The sign in the Park had been erected but the information poster had yet to be installed.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The river was busy with young canoeists as the adjudicator passed. Baltinglass is a wonderful oasis – you should consider planting a copse in a corner with trees and shrubs and let it evolve naturally. This would make a wonderful wildlife habitat if left undisturbed. The decked viewing point at the river is a lovely feature.

**Litter Control:**

Litter control is still a problem in Baltinglass. The area around Luigis was strewn with brown paper bags and drinks containers despite the presence of a bin - this is unacceptable. Stray pieces of litter were noticed throughout the town. Please ensure that a bin is placed close to the soccer pitch and basketball court at the Park as these tend to be problematic areas in most towns.

**Waste Minimisation:**

The Bring Bank at the Fire Station was noted and was spotless on the day of adjudication. This is a wonderful amenity for Baltinglass and is easily accessible. Has the school retained its Green Flag as was mentioned by the 2006 adjudicator?

**Tidiness:**

The Hackettstown road sets the standard with regard to tidiness. Whilst many of the individual commercial premises in Baltinglass look well often the adjoining property detracts from the overall impression due to the presence of inappropriate signage. There is quite an amount of construction and renovation currently in the town centre and their completion will enhance the tidiness of the streetscape further. The side entrance to the Baltinglass Inn was greatly admired for its impeccable presentation.

**Residential Areas:**

The residences at Parkmore housing estate are exceptionally well presented, indeed, one of them was being painted as the adjudicator passed! Gardens, here too, are a credit to their owners. On Edward Street opposite the new shop units a house was also being painted giving it a fresh appearance. Traditional stone houses in the town centre are charming. Bramble Court and the houses opposite the graveyard looked well.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The Dublin approach to Baltinglass was admired for its lengthy stretches of well maintained grass. The Slaney Mall was admired and the side lane was neat and tidy on the day of adjudication. The recessed path at the new shop units on Edward Street is a little damaged and needs to be upgraded. The Car Park at Baltinglass Park was spotless.

**General Impression:**

Baltinglass is congratulated on breaking the 200 point barrier in the Tidy Towns Competition! We look forward to the completion of the construction work in the central business district which, no doubt, will see an increase in marks in the 'Built Environment' section. Litter continues to be a critical issue in Baltinglass.