

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Ballon** Ref: **526**  
County: **Carlow** Mark: **238**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **24/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>238</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The adjudicator would like to welcome Ballon to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. Your last entry was in 2006 and it is great to have Ballon back in Tidy Towns as your village is important to the Competition. Thank you for the completed entry form and the four maps. The only map that marked your various projects was the hand-drawn one in pencil. This was a little difficult to follow and perhaps, a clearer map could be considered for 2010. Your committee of 15 people is very large by national standards and this shows the support that Tidy Towns enjoys in Ballon. Many committees would be envious of you in this regard! The weekly clean ups are a great idea and these give the community further opportunity for involvement. The support of the County Council is vital and do continue to develop your partnership with them, and the two annual open meetings are important in this regard. Competitions with the School are a very vital aspect of Tidy Towns and your work here is commended, and also that of the School pupils. It was interesting to read that the children had such involvement in Heritage Week. Do remember to prepare a 3 Year Plan for next year.

### **The Built Environment:**

The Archeological information panel at Ballon Hill was read with great interest – what a fascinating are! For next year we look forward to seeing progress on the School restoration project. This is the most attractive building of Granite, with the red brick detailing. It was great to see the new shopping area that was once a derelict site in the area. Congratulations on your use of Irish in Ballon which is warmly welcomed. The Community Centre has been attractively painted and the landscaping on the front wall softens the impact of that aspect of the building. The School was proudly flying the Green Flag and this is a well presented building with an attractive landscaping. The Catholic Church on Ballon Hill has a prominent location above the village proper and the nearby Grotto was examined. The adjudicator is of the view that the plaster like finish of the Grotto is a little out of keeping with the area. Granite might have been a better option. This is not in any way intended as a criticism but purely a personal view. The signage at the Joe Doyle Bar was admired apart from

the two projecting signs. The area at Top Garage was neatly presented.

### **Landscaping:**

The Millennium Garden has matured following replanting for this year and the new trees along the main road were admired. The extension of the Beech hedge at the School adds to the presentation here and the 'Carlow fencing' in timber was admired near Texaco. Good landscaping caught the eye at the Fenagh road junction. Along the roadside Graveyard wall, a number of empty hanging basket holders looked rather lonely. However, along the main street, the many hanging baskets and window boxes added a lot of additional welcome colour.

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

The two new bird feeders were not seen but never the less welcomed as a positive support to wildlife here. Is there any more news of the Tree Survey mentioned in the last year's Report, as it did not feature in your entry form this year?

### **Litter Control:**

The daily litter pick ups are producing good results as the village displayed good litter control on adjudication day. The new bins were noted while, at the Community Centre, the Bring Centre was satisfactory. Just a small amount of litter was noted along Ballon Hill and the occasional minor occurrence in some of the housing estates, but this was not serious.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Waste segregation as carried out in Ballon is one aspect of this adjudication category. Have you examined how the production of waste in Ballon can be reduced as this is a key aspect of this category?

### **Tidiness:**

The Community Centre area was tidy following your clean up and the work on weed control. Well done on the work on the old Graveyard on Ballon Hill. Advertising signage was noted at the 50 KPH signs on one approach road and this should be discouraged. An empty pole at the Grotto might be removed by the County Council if there is not future use in mind and the white timber fence here needed to be repainted. Litter bins will need to be washed and repainted from time to time. On Ballon Hill, a corrugated iron building would be improved if the roof was repainted. On Pheasants Rise, very bad graffiti and rubbish skip was noted at a small opening on the left just off the main road.

### **Residential Areas:**

The presentation at The Oaks was admired and the two different levels within the estate give additional character to the area. Some litter was present in Mullanmore estate and some road resurfacing is required here. Maple Lawn was also admired and exceptionally good landscaping features here. The houses opposite to Top Garage were well presented with good landscaping featured.

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

The approach roads, especially the two main approaches, were excellently presented and the grassy margins, and trees were admired. Along the Fenagh road, good grass margins enhanced this approach to Ballon. The Granite village name signs provide a good introduction to the village.

### **General Impression:**

It is good to have Ballon back in Tidy Towns and the adjudicator wishes you well in the years ahead.