

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballymurphy** Ref: **34**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **262**
Category: **A** Date(s): **22/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	21
Residential Areas	40	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	262

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Ballymurphy to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the helpful entry documentation. The photographs were also quite useful on the day of the visit. With sixteen people you have a large committee and that is very encouraging for the future. The County Council and local business support is in place and that is an excellent situation for the years ahead. The adjudicator likes the way you communicate with the Ballymurphy community and the use all the appropriate media. The colourful map provided was perfect and congratulations to the artist! A copy of the 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan was not included.

The Built Environment:

The 1960 Grotto was examined closely and it does make a great village focal point for Ballymurphy. The attractive low year round planting was appreciated here. Hopefully, works will begin on the Community Centre without delay, as its external structure needs attention. It was good to read that the old concrete structures here are to be removed to increase parking space. The Granite, slightly majestic, driveway to the Catholic Church was much admired while, at the Church, the overall presentation of all areas was excellent. The Coach House here was admired and has obviously found a new productive use. The façade of the shop would be improved if repainted. The two Mural areas relating to the old Forges were admired – an imaginative way of remembering history. On the Rathgeran road, the derelict properties here, presumably were an old Forge and the Pound area. Can anything be done to improve presentation here? The School was admired though the name stone in the car park needed to be repainted. Also the curved sections of the road boundary wall would be improved if repainted. The stone bridge on the road to the Community Centre is an attractive structure. The gable wall of the Murphy pub, as seen from the St Mullins approach, needed to be repainted.

Landscaping:

The adjudicator was so sorry to hear of the new trees that were vandalised at the R702 / R703 junction shortly after your entry was received. This has not affected your marks in a negative way in respect of this adjudication category. However, the accident here further complicated the situation. Nonetheless, to your great credit, on adjudication day there was very little evidence, if any, of unfortunate incident. The overall presentation here is excellent and the seat, and table was admired here. The grass areas here also reflect great care and attention to detail. The Killeely approach road is most impressive and the planting for year round colour is highly effective. There is such a variety of plant species here that it called to mind a Garden Centre display! A small landscaped area at the Pound improved the junction presentation. The spring planting at the Church must have looked really good at bloom time. The planting of the beautiful Mountain Ash is commended as is the permanent planting noted inside the Church wall. The tubs along the road on the left needed to be painted or treated.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The two Sli Na Slainte walks are a great local amenity. At the back of the School, the wildlife area is a great way of developing interest and respect for wildlife amongst the children. Your entry made a reference to the School and a wildlife board, but the intention here was not clear. Have you considered a wildlife survey of the Ballymurphy area involving the School?

Litter Control:

Well done on your participation in the Litter Action League. Again this year, the level of litter control observed in Ballymurphy was very high and your high marks in this respect continue to climb. When the Community Centre work is underway perhaps, you would consider providing a slightly raised plinth area for the Bring Centre units with bollards around the tree sides. Some landscaping of the Bring Centre should also be considered. On the day of the visit the Bring Centre was well presented.

Waste Minimisation:

Your encouragement of recycling is commended but what steps are you taking to encourage the actual reduction of waste generated in Ballymurphy? Each year you should try and take one new initiative and continue those from previous years.

Tidiness:

The drainage problem that you highlighted has been noted and hopefully this can be resolved with the County Council help. Near the Enniscorthy sign, up from the Pump, a blank pole was noted that did not seem to serve a purpose. This sign also needed to be washed. Beside the Bring Centre, the white tank needed to be washed as well.

Residential Areas:

Individual houses were quite well presented. The adjudicator was extremely impressed with the presentation of Inse-Na-Phuca. At the entrance area, the excellent landscaping here set the done for this estate. The grass areas, more properly described as lawns, are superbly presented and not a blade of grass was seen to be overhanging the kerbs. This is the benchmark by which all estates in Ireland should be judged. Well done to everyone involved and, especially, the residents.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the St Mullins approach, dead grass areas on both sides of the road, just before the STOP sign, needed attention. The excellent Killeely approach has been discussed above as has the R702 / R703 approach, which highly impressed.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Ballymurphy for the first time and the adjudicator wishes you well with your work for next year.