

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Ballineen - Enniskeane** Ref: **439**  
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **240**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **27/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>240</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Congratulations to the Ballineen-Enniskeane Tidy Towns Association for participating in the Tidy Towns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission, the poem and for your abstract map. This adjudicator has to admit that while the design of the map was admired the abstract nature of the drawing caused confusion. A hand drawn sketch of the town which highlights the places you regard as being most important for the Tidy Towns Competition is a great help to the adjudicator. The poem was a welcome break of light relief from the serious surveying task. Yours is a big and ambitious group with a fine product so a 3-5 year plan could be most helpful to you. If you do not have one the exercise of compiling such a plan would enable you to set immediate and medium term targets for yourselves, would help you focus on the local bodies and agencies which could best assist you with your various projects. As all projects need funding you would set down in your plan how you propose to fund your various projects. One feels from your submission that work is delegated so as to ensure that assigned tasks are completed. You engage with a variety of agencies and businesses. In what ways does this engagement help you advance your projects? Glad to see that you involve the youngsters in the community in your litter patrols. The 'awareness of the environment' you mention is obvious from a visit to Ballineen-Enniskeane. While it is a responsible and informed practice that your two villages should join forces for this competition, as they have been joined together in recent years by housing development, one fears that subconscious village rivalry may break out if the adjudicator seems to favour one side of this combination over the other. The adjudicator is neutral and will attempt not to favour either side of the partnership.

### **The Built Environment:**

One can see the changes in village life in recent times by observing the streetscape of Ballineen-Enniskeane. Some businesses are no more. The buildings that housed them are now residences or they are unoccupied and either maintained or deteriorating. Herein lies a challenge for your Association. Dereliction mars a

streetscape. There is a beautiful stone residence beside a garage with the remains of an old church peering out onto the street alongside it. This building is attractive in its own right but the roses! To die for and sufficient to light up any streetscape. The petrol pump? The Gardaí need to give a rub of a brush to their front. There is fine colour along the street in Ballineen but the cables are a distraction. The appearance of some of the businesses suggests that they have seen better days. Liam O'Loughlin's is doing its utmost to buck the trend and looks very attractive. On the other side of town the Centra building is well presented. The units in the car park suggest a busy shopping mall, if only the motorists would slow down a bit and drop in. The car park across from the Church is an example to anyone designing and maintaining a car park area. It is well lined. There are well maintained shrubberies on all four sides. The Church, the cemetery and their elegant entrances complete a superb picture of imagination, design and maintenance. The railings on the Church roof are an added bonus. The school and its landscaped surroundings are a credit to all involved in its presentation and bode well for the activities inside in the classroom. The same comments cannot be made regarding the Community Centre. Respect for the various religions seem strong as the Church of Ireland is also well maintained and the school is glowing in its coat of yellow.

### **Landscaping:**

The flaming results of your green fingers are evident all over. Using milk cans combines the floral tradition and the importance of the creamery to the rural village. The horse cart continues the theme. The Copeen Junction is a delight. One is delighted to read that Ból Cumann na hÉireann was founded here in 1954. Somehow this plaque creates a sense of history and of place. Bowls may not have a nationwide appeal but is an important sport in these parts and wonderful to find the sport celebrated here. The treatment of the parking area here is a credit to the creators. The griselinia hedge is trimmed and acts as a green backdrop to the multicolour inside. The farming theme is continued with the brightly painted hay turner. Window boxes and hanging baskets abound and bring much colour. Road widening provides opportunities for creating colour and natural relief. This opportunity has been grasped with islands of flowers and shrubs as one turns to the Pitch and Putt. The latter and the playground are two fine amenities.

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

The survey work on wild flowers and butterflies that is presently being carried out by you is highly commended. Make sure that the findings are included in next year's submission. Has this work progressed since last year's report? Involving the school has to be worthwhile not only from the point of view of getting help but also from the point of view of the awareness it should create among the pupils.

### **Litter Control:**

The positive results of your spring clean up and subsequent patrols result in very little litter being found in either village. The segregation that is being done with the waste is also commendable. The playground, Pitch and Putt area is littered.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Some of the activities mentioned in the litter section of your submission could also be included under waste minimisation. One wonders if your committee have come to grips with the terms of reference of this section. It could benefit your committee to study the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. Such a study would stimulate new waste elimination projects for you. Remember that the emphasis in this section is not on litter control but on minimising waste in your community. One is always pleased to find a green flag at the school fluttering in the breeze. One supposes that your committee lent a hand in the pursuit of this Green Flag Status. The Bring Bank looks well maintained.

### **Tidiness:**

Traffic is a major issue. At times it is frenetic. Many motorists seem to have no regard for the residents. There may be an opportunity to bury the cables at some time in the future. If that opportunity occurs grasp it. Cables and wires are very noticeable throughout the two village centres. Try also to control the fly posting that seems endemic at one end of the street.

### **Residential Areas:**

The main street of Ballineen is now very much a residential area and the street benefits greatly from the fresh colours throughout. The traditional fronts enhance the village atmosphere. The pink house and the three beautifully painted houses set a promising tone when arriving in Enniskeane. The houses that act as a connector between the two villages are a feature of the built environment and add much to the overall experience. Try to have name stones for your new estates as in Tír na Gréine. It helps create a sense of

identity among the residents, as well as being attractive and welcoming. Gort Mhuire is a delight, fine open space well maintained. Derrigrá Crescent has a neat and attractive entrance. Keep the open space mowed regularly. Riverview Drive is in a beautiful setting but the open space needs to be tended to. One hopes that other new estates develop into an integral part of village life. For now there appears to be an ominous quiet.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

It signals a hearty welcome to town when greeted by a well treated name sign with flowers and neat surrounds. Well done. The flower beds of a previous generation on the Dunmanway approach road need a rethink. Traffic calming of some sort on the approach roads might calm drivers somewhat.

**General Impression:**

Your policy of concentrating on the landscaping of both villages to assist integration results in a bright and cheery experience as one passes from one place to the other. Your enthusiasm for your work has resulted in a worthwhile visual experience. What a pity some motorists would not stop a while and smell the roses.