

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Ballyneety** Ref: **1881**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **227**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	29
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>227</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for the filled out entry form and map of the village, which was very helpful on adjudication day. I note, you have great enthusiasm amongst the parishioners, when up to 40 people can give up some of their spare time to assist the Tidy Towns Committee. You are holding plenty committee meetings and keep the local people informed of your plans and activities, and this is vital to maintain support. I note, you have a close relationship with the local schools and this is worthwhile. It is positive that you found the competition beneficial for the advancement of your community. The events that you mention are good to build up community spirit. I read your appendix 1 and I must compliment you on taking this approach, as proper planning is vital. All of this means you have a very good overall development approach for a newly founded Tidy Towns Committee.

### **The Built Environment:**

The centre of the village is quite attractive in appearance, in which the new developments near the funeral home blend in nicely with the more established village houses. I noticed that the car park at the funeral home was being used by some people doing business in the village, and this is a good safety measure by keeping some traffic away from this busy road. In a stroll around the village, I admired some very well kept business houses that were adorned with neat floral arrangements of window boxes, hanging baskets and tubs of flowers. The Garda barracks and living quarters are visually striking and attractive. I admired the two thatched houses, and in particular the white one at the corner, where traditional building techniques remind us of a bygone age. The Protestant church, now a private residence, looked great, and while the function of the building is now obviously very different, it has retained its original identity. The Courthouse with the traditional stone wall to the front has defining architectural qualities and I admired the heritage panel there. With the nice floral arrangements put in place by the Tidy Towns Committee, the displays were bolstered by in the private and business houses in Ballyneety, and what a picturesque location it is. I must compliment you on the way the old house across from the petrol station has been camouflaged in the interim, before more permanent

restoration is carried out on it, and it would be great if the rusted roof was painted.

### **Landscaping:**

The level of landscaping is excellent in the housing estates and the golf club, with well catered for large public lawns and some attractive trees and shrubs. This is augmented with delightful displays of shrubs, trees, hedging and flowers in the well kept houses and give a distinctive flavour to the locality. I felt that some garden furniture, such as secure bench seats and tables, could be provided in some locations in the spacious lawns to facilitate rest and picnics. The old village is well presented and does not, in my view, require much intervention over the tastily organised floral arrangements that you have put in place. There is a natural landscape to the village with some great traditional stone walls. Well done for the removal of ivy from the walls, and this is a difficult task, but it is well worthwhile. From time to time, the traditional stone walls will require attention, and if I could, with respect, urge great caution here as these walls need to be repaired in the same style as the original wall, no fancy painting and very little cement is used in a mainly special lime based mortar. Information on stone walls is available from the conservation officer at Limerick County Council. I inspected the repair of the wall at the corner of the Stroller and first of all, your efforts to improve the area are acknowledged, but this is a good example of what I mean in that if you look carefully at the wall and find the older part still intact, then the repairs should have been carried out in the same style as the older part. Your earlier effort is not in vain and you could be ready to advise others on this subject. Congratulations on cleaning up the graveyards, but the graveyards are not shown on your map of the village. I note, you intend to plant more trees and this is the right approach, and you may be interested in obtaining a book entitled OUR TREES ISBN 0-9518612-5-5; this is an excellent book with good information on which trees to plant, and I feel that having read this book you could soon be propagating your own stock of trees!

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

You have taken the right way forward by getting in touch with Geoff Hunt in relation to the wildlife of your area and when the plan is in operation it will be interesting for all of us to enjoy the variety of wildlife in your area. You could also enlist the assistance of some people in the area that are interested in the outdoor pursuits. You have also made a positive investment in the bird boxes. Is there any sign of a corncrake in Ballyneety?

### **Litter Control:**

The control of litter is good in the area and your litter picks are working out good. Well done for the participation in the An Taisce spring clean. The reporting to Limerick County Council of dumping is effective and we know that the environment section of the Council takes appropriate action on dumping.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

It is quite positive that the schools have green flag status and this gets the children, parents and teachers involved in effective waste minimisation by segregation, recycling and composting. You could give them a treat by giving them Paddy Madden's book, The School Garden - 'What to do and when to do it'. The public talk on waste management is a responsible attitude to waste treatment.

### **Tidiness:**

Generally speaking, the area was neat and tidy. Some weeds were noticed along by the side of the road in and by the wall going out from Limerick. The rusted roof, already mentioned, detracts from the visual amenity of the village. Underground service cables in the newer estates give a tidy appearance to their surroundings, and you could endeavour to have the cables in the heart of the village also put underground by the ESB. Approaching the golf club from the village / Limerick side, the actual small sign was partly hidden by the branches of a tree, and this could cause a state of uncertainty and consequent danger to drivers

### **Residential Areas:**

The housing estates are well laid out, and what a great place to live in they are. There is a distinct pride of place shown by the residents. One point that may not be noticeable to local people is the lack of public names for estates and I recommend suitable signage, such as the one for the Grove could be put in place for the Glen. I searched for No. 8 on your map, which you stated was Bellview, and a local lady told me that the estate name was Bellewood, and perhaps the correct name could be put in place at the entrance to the estate. There are a variety of well kept private houses in the area, and some of them had most impressive displays of landscaping such as flowers, trees, shrubs and lawns. I loved the white thatched house and the Protestant Church.

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

The village is dominated by the very busy main road, which is in good condition. The other secondary roads

are also in good condition. All the signposts are clean and distinct. A lot of the roadside fencing consists of attractive stone walls. I note, you are giving attention to the footpaths on the main road.

**General Impression:**

You have made a good effort to put together this comprehensive application and this is appreciated. I admired the traditional water pump and could I suggest, it be painted in a softer colour of black or dark green. I saw the Liberty stone. With the enthusiasm shown you have potential to further improve the village and very much increase your marks in future years.