

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyorgan** Ref: **443**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **227**
Category: **A** Date(s): **06/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	227

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Ballyorgan back to the Tidy Towns Competition. Your entry is important to Tidy Towns and it is great to have you back. Thank you for the completed entry form and your old Tidy Towns Plan. This identifies clearly short, medium and long term objectives. In your new Plan, it is suggested that you identify projects under each of the ten adjudication categories by year of potential implementation. Your committee of just three people seems a little small, but you appear to be getting appropriate support of the various agencies including FAS. It is great that you involve the School in the annual Spring Clean.

The Built Environment:

The derelict house at the Church was examined. Have you discussed this with Limerick County Council who might be able to help further? In the meantime, it is suggested that the timber for the window openings is repainted and the roof could also do with painting. The door was excellently painted, though this may need to be touched up for next year. The Interpretative Panel and the Lop Walk panel are ,each most interesting, the source of useful local information. The presentation of the old Hall continues to be a problem. Even white washing of the three visible walls would make a great contribution to Tidy Towns. The Village Inn was much admired and the hand painted hanging sign is most appropriate. This building is well set off by good landscaping. The pump with the low surrounding wall was admired. The Church is attractively surrounded by mature landscaping. The gates here will need to be painted for next year and, up the hill, the School gate would also be improved if painted. It is suggested that for next year some window boxes or hanging baskets be provided at the School, to give a little extra colour.

Landscaping:

The replanting near 'Long Delay' cottage and below the village pump will add to the attractiveness of the village centre. Along the street, through Ballyorgan, some very good private landscaping caught the eye. This

is one of your strong performance categories.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wild sites in the village, you mentioned in your entry, are indeed important for wildlife. The idea of the Wildlife Survey is strongly welcomed. This should include birds, fish, animals, insects, plants etc. Can you get the Scholl involved in this worthwhile project?

Litter Control:

The idea of having five people with a litter collection responsibility is really good, and the idea seems to be working quite well. On the day of the adjudication visit, litter control was quite satisfactory. The Bring Centre was well presented, though the official signage was missing from here. Just a little litter was noted on the Kilfinane side of Ballyorgan.

Waste Minimisation:

You do not have any projects under this heading for this year. This category is really about the reduction of the amount of waste generated in Ballyorgan, and the recycling of as much of the remaining waste as possible. You should have a talk with the teachers in the School, as there may be some projects where you both can work together in terms of waste reduction.

Tidiness:

You have been involved in weeding in the village. However, on the day of the visit quite a lot of weed growth was noted in the village by the entrance area to the river and up along the main street on the left hand side. Weeds were also evident at the river bridge. At the Interpretative panel, the grass needed a trim and the timber uprights, at the landscaped area here, would be improved if treated or painted. Here the black plastic is visible and detracts a little from the overall effect. To the side of the Pump, a timber gate needed to be painted also. Beside the Church, a blank notice board was noted, the frame of which needed to be treated. The small grass area here would be improved if cut.

Residential Areas:

The majority of the private houses in Ballyorgan impressed with the overall standard of presentation. Good landscaping was evident at many houses. The two cottages beside The Wayside Inn are really attractive and so well painted. Another house that caught the eye is the one with the two white road boundary walls at right angles on the main street. The A Moynihan stone fronted premises also stands out and a good use of colour was noted here. A roadside hedge here needed to be cut back a little. Near the School, a yellow road boundary wall needed to be repainted. On the Kilfinane side of Ballyorgan, mature gardens impressed.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Glenroe road, the grass verges needed to be cut near the 80 KPH signs. The Kilfinane approach has great potential, though some verge damaged was noted along here. The verge here was also uneven in places.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit the attractive village of Ballyorgan on a June morning. It is good to have you back in the competition and we wish you well for 2010.