

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballycroy** Ref: **505**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **237**
Category: **A** Date(s): **10/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	237

Overall Development Approach:

Ballycroy Village Enhancement is welcomed to the 2009 Competition. You are a committee who appear to work well with Mayo County Council, FAS and the local school. Your report on your work and achievements to date show the level of commitment that is there. Fund-raising in the community appears to work well for you.

The Built Environment:

The standard in this category was somewhat inconsistent on the day. The 59 Inn looked well and sported some tree planting, although additional landscaping might be considered here, and also at Keane's garage. Do encourage the replacement of plastic signage with ones of a more traditional timber variety. The Post Office was quite fresh, as was the church, but the Community Centre and the Development Council building (in the Court House?) had yet to be painted. The Tourist Office was well maintained. The Health Centre was fine, although its rear area was a little neglected. Is it intended that access to the new National Park Centre should be along this narrow road or from the road leading from the graveyard and church? This is a magnificent new building, which will be a marvellous facility to the village. Another new timber clad modern building was noted on the Belmullet Road, but no reference was made to it in your submission nor was there a notice on the site. The work to the graveyard wall and entrance was noted and admired.

Landscaping:

This is an area you obviously enjoy, to judge from the marvellous work completed at the housing estate. It sported a magnificent playground and unusual boat-shaped designed picnic table and benches amongst its landscape space. We wondered if it needed the fencing, however? Maybe to just the playground for safety reasons would be sufficient? The crucifix area was well maintained and pots by the housing estate were noted and admired. The grounds of the Community Centre were well maintained.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The bird feeder at the Community Centre was a good idea. Participation in Mayo County Council's Environmental Competitions is an excellent initiative. We look forward to work developing on the habitat by the Community Centre. Plans for using berried trees and mountain ash are most appropriate.

Litter Control:

Congratulations on your participation in Mayo County Council's Litter League and your achievement of litter free status last year, along with winning the Litter Free Mile competition. The standard of control on the day was good, apart from some litter spotted on the laneway beside the health centre. Good luck with your efforts to get a collection service for the village.

Waste Minimisation:

Your work in relation to clean ups is commendable and we congratulate Drumgallagh National School on its achievement of Green Flag status. This category of the competition is about best practice in terms of the promotion of reducing, reusing and recycling within the local community-schools, residents and businesses. How do you achieve this? Do you compost the cuttings from your work? Have you considered running composting workshops? The recycling area was well maintained on the day.

Tidiness:

The village looked quite neat and tidy on the day. The outbuilding at the crossroads is at a very prominent location and should be re-whitewashed and the area around it weeded. Don't forget to remove building materials once construction work is complete. We look forward to seeing the under-grounding of cables in future.

Residential Areas:

The housing estate by the church looked marvellous on the day and its landscaped area has been mentioned elsewhere in this report. The individual houses in the village centre and along approach roads were generally well cared for on the day.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads were quite overgrown on the day, although the wild rhododendrons, ferns, fuchsia, wild daisies and montbretia make a good impression. Welcome signs looked most cheerful. Views of the sea and mountains, and Achill Island make all approaches to the village truly magical. Work may have been delayed on the approach roads due to ongoing road works, as the road surfaces were somewhat inconsistent on the day. There is a long stretch of roadway for you to monitor. New footpaths were noted at the church and graveyard. New lighting was noted and admired. Trees along the roadside appeared to have lights wrapped around them, are these lit at night or a left over from Christmas?

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Ballycroy for the first time. It will be undergoing many changes over the next number of years due to the National Park Centre, which will have a major impact on the number of visitors in the village. Good luck with all this.