

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyhaunis** Ref: **506**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **226**
Category: **C** Date(s): **14/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	226

Overall Development Approach:

Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns Committee is welcomed to the 2009 Competition. Work at Ballyhaunis Abbey is impressive and we were pleased to hear of your inheritance of this major asset on a 999 year lease for use by the local community. The Public Art Commission is a wonderful idea and the fruits of its labours are evident in the town. The table looks like a marvellous addition. You would appear to have a good working relationship with Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce, County Counsellors and businesses. The art competition for the national school and anti-litter talks at the community school are all good initiatives.

The Built Environment:

There are still a number of commercial premises sporting plastic signage, these should be replaced with more traditional timber ones. Ensure that the render is not removed from vernacular street buildings to reveal the stonework below, this is not only incorrect from a conservation point of view, but can lead to problems with water penetration. Rhattigan's would be improved by a fresh coat of paint. Bridge Street and its buildings were in good condition. Irises' Florist created a cheerful display. Abbey Street looked well and its playground was admired. We were pleased to hear of plans to erect a sports hall and pavilion at the Scout Den, at the moment it looks quite neglected in its prominent location. This will be a marvellous facility for the town. The Garda Station will need painting before next year's competition. The Hazel sported some attractive hanging baskets. The Catholic Church was well maintained, although its railings and gates will need painting before next year's competition. The Hazelhill Family Practice looked well. The Community School looked well, although its fencing should be replaced. We were pleased to hear of your project to restore a derelict property on Knox Street and the continued pressure regarding dereliction generally. We look forward to future work at the town square. Buildings leading down to the car park looked a little grim. The modern glass building of Mid-West radio was admired.

Landscaping:

The sculpture of the two men striking a bargain over a calf was admired in its prominent location, as was the granite ogham stone with stainless steel disc. The adjacent tiered tubs of petunias made a cheerful display. Attractive planting led down to the car park and made a good impression. Landscaping to the siding of the railway station was admired, although its directional signage was a little grubby. The grotto with gravelled bed was admired on the Roscommon approach. The freshly painted grotto at Gurteen created a good impression. The restoration of the town sounds like a very interesting project in the centre of the town. We were interested to learn of the removal of tree grids and look forward to hearing of improvements to litter control as a result. The Sundial at the swimming pool was admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Signposting to the nature walks will be a marvellous addition to these areas. We wish you luck with negotiations with the Abbey Partnership and Fisheries Board in this regard.

Litter Control:

Congratulations on being runner up in last year's Litter League, no mean feat for a town of your size! On the day, some litter was evident at Abbey View.

Waste Minimisation:

Some rubbish was evidently dumped at the recycling area in the car park. We look forward to seeing the new bring banks. We wish you all the best regarding establishing closer links with local businesses and residents associations regarding waste minimisation.

Tidiness:

There is quite a lot of dereliction and abandoned property in the town and along approach roads, which creates a bad impression. The former tool hire shop on the Tooreen/Charlestown Road looked quite unfortunate. Another prominent item of dereliction was a house at the junction of the Roscommon and Tuam roads. A grubby gable at Doctor's Road creates a negative impression in its prominent location. It was a little weedy to the forecourt area of the GAA grounds.

Residential Areas:

Some grubby boundaries on the Toolin Road created a bad impression. Houses and gardens along the Roscommon Road were admired. The stone wall and entrance area at the Old Racecourse was admired. It was still being built on the day. St Gerald's Terrace was greatly admired with well maintained open space, attractive houses and well maintained gardens. The newer houses at the entrance, using stone work and pebbledash, were unusual and attractive. We were pleased to hear of the opening of Clare Court Social Housing project by the President. Congratulations to Aisling Drive and Knox Street Residents Associations on their participation in your National Spring Clean. We applaud you on your plans to promote the ethos of residents associations.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Do discourage advertising hoardings, as they can give approach roads a rather cluttered appearance. The Tooreen Road was a little overgrown. The Roscommon Road sported some attractive trees. The Knock Road had a long boundary wall to a field which looked quite grim. Road signage on this road appeared quite faded, possibly due to attempts to disguise graffiti? We were pleased to learn of the completion of the bi-lingual townland signage. Plans to have an outer distribution road and upgrading of the car park are looked forward to. The work of the RSS worker on these areas must be of much help to you

General Impression:

It was a number of years since this adjudicator had the pleasure of visiting Ballyhaunis and it was impressive to see how well it is being cared for. It is a lively, vibrant town with much to offer visitor and resident alike.