

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Ballyvary** Ref: **541**  
County: **Mayo** Mark: **225**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **13/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	16
Tidiness	30	26
Residential Areas	40	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	22
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>225</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Ballyvary Enhancement Association is welcomed to the 2009 Competition. The village is in a unique situation, having been by-passed by the N5, leading to a number of cul-de-sacs, dead-ends and small squares. You would appear to have good relationship with the local National School which is excellent, good luck with the current competition. We were pleased to hear that they are helpful to you regarding recycling. The work of the Rural Social Scheme worker must be very beneficial to your efforts. You have a positive attitude to the competition, which is good to hear. We were pleased to hear you have a strategic five-year plan, perhaps this could be submitted with next year's application.

### **The Built Environment:**

The standard in this category of the competition was quite good. We were pleased to hear that some problem areas in the village have been replaced. Kay's Fast Food was for sale, but was in good condition. The garage could be painted before next year's competition. The Post Office was very fresh, as was the butcher's. The Village Inn was in good condition.

### **Landscaping:**

The attractive bronze monument and associated landscaping at the entrance to the village from the N5 was admired and well maintained. Trees and the associated planting, and paving bays looked well in the village centre. We admired the rose bed and were wondering how your new planting plan will look? We appreciate that you are looking for a low maintenance option. The hanging baskets hanging from new lamp standards were admired. The area between the N5 and the village could be developed as an attractive landscaped area or as a wildlife area. The grotto was well presented.

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

We were pleased to hear that you have contacted Mayo County Council regarding the provision of new walks around the area. We look forward to future development of this area and are pleased to hear this will link in with heritage walks, nature trails and incorporate information boards on history and wildlife. Have you conducted a wildlife survey? This could be useful in relation to your work on the local walks.

**Litter Control:**

We were pleased to hear that you participate in Mayo County Council's Litter League and National Spring Clean. Daily litter patrols by the RSS worker are an excellent idea. We are glad that the local school are getting involved in your work. A few papers were apparent in the village centre on the day.

**Waste Minimisation:**

Does the local school participate in the Green Flag Programme? We were pleased to hear about the competition and of their segregation of litter. The provision of a clothes bank is excellent news. Have you considered composting the cuttings you produce from your work? Have you thought of running composting workshops?

**Tidiness:**

The cleaning of the gutters in "one clean sweep" was an excellent idea! The top of the post box appeared quite flaky and should be re-painted before next year's competition. The traditional curved roofed outbuilding/barn at the top of the town should also be repainted before next year's competition.

**Residential Areas:**

We were pleased to hear of the new houses replacing ones that had become derelict. The old barracks building is an attractive building of its type, is it possible to re-use it in some way? The new stone houses above the village were admired, as were the plastered and velux roof-lit houses below them. The new hedging in this area was admired, as were their attractive gardens. The open space of the lower houses was a little overgrown. There were a number of new houses at the top of the town.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

We look forward to the provision of new street signage, markings and footpaths, this should make a real difference in defining the village. The provision of kerbing is also good news. The road surface in the centre of the village was a little rough and no doubt will be re-surfaced in the not too distant future.

**General Impression:**

It was a number of years since this adjudicator had the pleasure of visiting Ballyvary and we noted with pleasure that the town retained its unique charm.