

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Bangor Erris** Ref: **744**  
County: **Mayo** Mark: **219**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **10/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	14
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>219</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Bangor Erris Tidy Towns Association is welcomed to the 2009 Competition. You are a committee who have great passion for your village and this is apparent in your submission, which was very comprehensive. Your five-year plan was most interesting and your map was very useful on the day. We appreciate your comments regarding the quarry and its support of your work, and the local community, which was good to hear. However, it does create a shock when viewed against the backdrop of wild unspoilt scenery that surrounds it! You would appear to work closely with Mayo County Council which is all to the good. Their support in relation to your village walk, anti litter awareness programme etc., is important. Your work with the local angling club, rural social scheme and local businesses is also commendable.

### **The Built Environment:**

As promised, public buildings such as the church and national school were extremely well maintained with attractive grounds, particularly to the latter. The commercial premises were, for the most part, well cared for also. There were a number of yard areas, which would benefit from screening from public view. Would it be possible to contact the owners and suggest that they erect fencing or native hedging, or stone walling to screen their premises? Discourage plastic signage and encourage its replacement with signage of a more traditional timber variety. The Talk of the Town, Sizzlers and O'Reilly's Meats were all quite fresh. Spar was also well presented. The GAA building and boundary wall had been freshly painted.

### **Landscaping:**

The picnic area by the national school was admired. The pleasant riverside area is also a wonderful amenity to have in the village. The magnificent sculpture was admired on the Crossmolina approach to the village. There is scope for developing the open space at the junction on the Belmullet side of the village. The montbretia must be magnificent along this road, especially when in full bloom. The riverside area looked

magnificent, if a little urban in nature.

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

You show great interest in this area of the competition and we were impressed by the wildlife garden of the national school. A bird table was noted to the front of the school itself. We look forward to seeing your wildlife sanctuary in years to come. Good luck with raising funds for your information boards. The enclosed documentation regarding further plans for the riverside walk was most interesting.

#### **Litter Control:**

Congratulations on your success in the litter league! Litter was evident on the day, apart from minor outbreaks on the Belmullet Road and the Westport Road. The plans for a litter survey in the village by students is an excellent one. The gum and smoke pouches are a great idea and most unusual, no wonder they are recommended to other villages and towns!

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

The recycling area was well presented in its prominent location by the national school. We were pleased to hear that the national school had received its second green flag and has such a keen interest in ecological matters. Good luck with your composting open evening.

#### **Tidiness:**

The standard in this category was quite good, apart from the comments made elsewhere in this report regarding yard areas. The tin roof of the petrol station on the Crossmolina approach should be painted before next year's competition. A derelict site opposite created a bad impression. Weeds were apparent to kerbs to the new housing estate on the Belmullet side of the village. Weed control was also a problem at the bridge, possibly due to ongoing work here? And at the yard area opposite the school, and adjacent kerbing.

#### **Residential Areas:**

The houses along the streets of the town were generally well presented and cheerfully painted on the day. The open space to the Shranarry estate appeared somewhat overgrown on the day. The stone walling to a housing estate on the Belmullet side of the village was admired.

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

The approach roads were quite good on the day, although the practice of advertising hoardings should be discouraged as they can give a rather cluttered appearance. The Crossmolina approach sported some magnificent wild rhododendrons, which was also the case on the Belmullet side of the village. This approach affords the visitor a magnificent backdrop of the mountains beyond. The new footpath and tree planting was noted on the Crossmolina approach. The Belmullet Road was well presented with neat verges, lamp standards, new footpaths and new trees coming along well. More tree planting and stone walling was noted on the Westport side of the village. The magnificent rhododendrons were admired on the Geesala Road.

#### **General Impression:**

It was a pleasure to visit your village for the first time. It is set in some spectacular scenery and its residents show a great pride in its appearance.