

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Bonniconlon** Ref: **509**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **250**
Category: **A** Date(s): **07/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	40
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	250

Overall Development Approach:

Bonniconlon Tidy Towns Committee is welcomed to the 2009 Competition. You would appear to have a good relationship with Mayo County Council and FAS. Many thanks for your completed application form, review of the last number of years' work and map, which were all useful on the day. Perhaps for next year's competition you could hand draw a larger scale map indicating clearly the areas in the village that you have concentrated on for that year's competition. It would also be useful if you filled in the sections of the application form that are not covered by your documentation i.e. the wildlife section. You would appear to have a good working relationship within the committee.

The Built Environment:

The charming church in its central location was well presented, with attractive stone wall to front and planted beds admired. The grotto was simply presented and the school looked well. The commercial premises of the village were generally in good condition, of note being the River Inn. Do ensure that plastic signage is replaced by that of a more traditional timber variety, there are still a few inappropriate plastic signs evident to shopfronts. The new fencing to the wall on the Tobercurry side of the village was admired and in progress on the day. Don't forget gable walls when considering overall presentation, these can be apparent if a building is detached or taller than its neighbours. The Garda Station was quite fresh.

Landscaping:

This is an area of the competition you obviously enjoy. The tree planting and colourful floral displays outside the school pay testament to this! The incidental landscaped space with planting and bench at the crossroads in the centre of the village is quite charming. Tree planting along the Main Street is coming along well and gives the village an elegant air.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As mentioned earlier in this report, you left this section of your application form blank, which was disappointing. What are you doing to promote/encourage wildlife in your locality? Have you conducted a wildlife survey? You could involve the local schoolchildren in this project. Are there areas around the village which could be used as nature trails? There are valuable marks to be gained in this category of the competition!

Litter Control:

The standard in this category was quite good on the day. Congratulations on your achievements in the litter league, winning the title 4 years out of 5! Work at the bottle bank is also paying off, as it is in such a prominent location. The litter bins were in good condition.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling area was very neat in its prominent location on the Tobercurry side of the village. Again, there are valuable points to be raised in this category of the competition, so it is important to complete this section of the application form in order to ensure that the adjudicator is aware of your work. Do you compost your cuttings or segregate your waste? Does the school take part in the Green Schools Programme? Do you promote composting among the local community by organising workshops etc? Do you encourage people to reduce/reuse/recycle and make them aware of the possibilities open to them in this regard?

Tidiness:

The standard in this category was quite good, although some weeds were apparent on the Ballina Road opposite the welcome sign, where a boundary wall was very badly stained. Generally, the village had a neat and ordered appearance. Building materials should be removed once work is complete, some concrete blocks were spotted on the Ballina Road. Some rear areas look a little neglected on the Enniscrone side of the village.

Residential Areas:

Houses along the Main Street were very fresh and well presented. Housing estates were generally in good order and suitable to their location, fitting in well with the fabric of the existing village. That, with stone wall on the Ballina side of the village was admired, particularly one house with red roses around the door. The adjacent housing estate by the welcome sign on this side of the village was admired. An attractive garden was noted opposite the school.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There didn't appear to be a village nameplate on the Tobercurry side of the village. The Ballina side of the village sported a cheerful welcome sign. New footpaths were admired here. Generally, the approach roads and streets of the town were neat and well presented.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Bonniconlon for the first time. It is a peaceful village whose residents show a pride in their surroundings.