

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Charlestown Bellaghy** Ref: **856**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **206**
Category: **C** Date(s): **25/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	14
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	206

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Charlestown Bellaghy to the 2009 TidyTowns Competition and your entry is important to the competition. Unfortunately, the entry form offered little assistance to the adjudicator, as many parts of the form were not completed or were not completed fully. This situation creates difficulty for the adjudicators, as it is not clear what works were carried out for 2009. There was a similar situation last year in respect of the entry form. The entry form and supporting documentation is the opportunity that Charlestown Bellaghy has to indicate clearly what work has been carried out in the last year. Thank you for the TidyTowns Plan 2007 – 2012. This is a clear and detailed document, but appears to be the same document that was submitted for 2008, as the Plan submitted had not been updated since 2007. This Plan did not indicate what work had been completed for this year. No map of Charlestown Bellaghy was included for the adjudicator and this is really an essential part of the entry form. It is regrettable that no background information was provided on the entry form about the Committee and any links that you have with supporting organisations and agencies. Therefore, this adjudicator was unable take such links into account when allocating marks for this year.

The Built Environment:

The Charlestown Bellaghy Library and Fire Station were admired and these public buildings are presented in a most pleasing manner. At the Community Enterprise Centre, the railings needed to be repainted together with the road boundary wall. Derelict buildings are a problem in Charlestown Bellaghy. It is suggested that the owners of these properties are approached to see if they will carry out basic cosmetic works pending redevelopment. This would involve filling in door and window openings with Marine Ply and painting these areas in matt black. Glazing bars can then be painted in white. As a temporary solution this is acceptable from a TidyTowns point of view. Mayo County Council has powers under The Derelict Sites Act that might also be of assistance, if necessary. The Catholic Church presentation would be improved if the road boundary wall

was replastered and painted. In the back areas, near the Bring Centre, some properties appeared to have been freshly painted, while others looked less well. Some corrugated iron doors and roves needed to be painted. Opposite the Bring Centre, an untidy small open site needed attention. It is suggested that some hanging baskets and window boxes be provided at the Pastoral Centre. In Bellaghy, the stone buildings were much admired, especially the building with the red door. The main problems in the centre of the town in respect of the built environment relate to wirescape, lighting at individual properties and projecting signs. The Dew Drop Inn caught the eye because of the good colour scheme and general presentation here.

Landscaping:

The central landscaped area in the middle of Charlestown Bellaghy, with the Calves sculpture, was very attractively presented and provides an excellent focal point for the town. In Bellaghy, all the landscaped areas needed attention and the removal of weed growth. Opposite the Centra premises in this area, there is potential to develop a new roadside landscaped area. Hanging baskets and window boxes added needed colour in various parts of the town.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is suggested that the Committee considers carrying out a wildlife survey of the Charlestown Bellaghy area and you might involve the School in this. The Local Authority may be able to advise you on local expertise that may be of help in this regard. Have you considered the potential for a river walk on the Darkin premises side of the river? The river itself was poorly presented, with four large traffic dumped in the river; what a poor way to treat a potentially attractive community resource.

Litter Control:

Your entry mentioned a daily monitor of litter, but on the day of the visit litter control in Charlestown Bellaghy was very poor. Quite a lot of litter was noted along the main street in various locations, especially near the bridge. Dumping was evident at the Bring Centre and a damaged sign needed attention. The fountain area at Bellaghy is potentially attractive, but the overall impact was reduced by the quantities of litter, noted along by the retail units here.

Waste Minimisation:

It is suggested that you get a copy of The Race Against Booklet from the TidyTowns Unit, as this has many ideas that may be of help to the Committee. Evidently, no new work was carried out for this year; were projects from last year repeated for this year?

Tidiness:

It is suggested that, in cooperation with landowners, all field gates be painted to an agreed colour scheme. Quite a few advertising signs were noted at the fountain area and these gave an untidy impression of this area. The display of retail goods was noted on the pavement in various areas and this should be discouraged. It looks untidy and can cause major problems for the disabled. Weed growth in the paving at the fountain paved area needed attention. Where the old railway line meets the road in Bellaghy, quite an untidy area was noted with some dumping. Along by the river, to the side of the Darkin premises, an extremely untidy area was noted.

Residential Areas:

At Pine Grove, the long landscaped area on the left, inside the entrance area, was badly overgrown. Quite bad weed growth was noted at kerbing in this estate. The overuse of Weedkiller at Fairgreens was evident, as well as a little litter. Very bad weed growth was evident at kerbing in Parkview estate. Some additional landscaping is suggested for Lowpark estate and a few front gardens needed attention.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads needed attention in terms of the cutting of verges and the trimming of some roadside banks. The trees on approach roads continue to enhance the main approaches to Charlestown Bellaghy.

General Impression:

For 2010, do make sure that the entry form is completed fully and that your work for next year is clearly identified. Charlestown Bellaghy is an attractive town that has greater potential to do well in the TidyTowns Competition than has been realised to date.

