

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Ballinode** Ref: **585**  
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **239**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **13/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>239</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for the completed application form supplemented by map which was easy to follow and was a big help to the adjudicator, who was visiting the village for the first time. The Ballinode Newsletter was a fine source of evidence of the hard work being put in by a small group of dedicated community residents. Hopefully, you will garner further support from other villagers for next year and beyond, as the village has far more potential that needs to be realised. The notes regarding ongoing projects and areas of concern have been noted. A slightly more detailed Development Plan should be put in place prior to next year's competition. It is important to strengthen the good relationship that you have with Monaghan County Council, as it will benefit the village in the years ahead. Your comments re the time of adjudication have been noted, but unfortunately the deadlines for first adjudication reports dictate this. Well done and keep up the hard work.

### **The Built Environment:**

St Dymphna's Col looked very appealing, with mature trees and tidy boundary wall. The Riverside Park complete with adjoining boundary stone walls, stone bridge and freshly painted riverside barrier provide Ballinode with a valuable scenic asset and village centre point. Efforts should be made to ensure the river itself is kept free of rubbish.

On adjudication day, the wonderfully restored low roofed cottages on the Monaghan entrance stood out for tidiness, freshness and obvious pride on the owners' parts, a fitting introduction to the village for any visitor.

The water pump was in excellent shape, framed nicely with bright flower baskets. The Centra Store was clean

in appearance, with a suitable splash of colour emanating from the flower baskets. Perfections was also turned out well on adjudication day.

Maguire's deserve mention for the tidy condition of both, the entrances and truck yard. Despite the size and industrial nature of the building, it has managed to blend in well with Ballinode's homely and welcoming appearance.

Well done to those people entrusted with the upkeep of the Community Centre and in deed this fact is acknowledged in your submission. There was some evidence of dereliction on Connolly's Corner and this combined with rubbish in the river takes away very slightly from the overall appearance.

### **Landscaping:**

The grass section and flower beds in the Riverside Park were obviously very well tended to. The wildlife sign, as well as been informative, is very well designed and not cluttered with too much text.

The Scotstown entrance, complete with bench and flowers, is a fitting introduction to the village. In addition, across from Connolly's Corner on the hill some excellent work has been carried out to provide a pleasant flower bed and interspersed with long life shrubs.

The flower vases around the astro turf facility are very well maintained and contribute to the overall fresh and bright appearance of that part of the village. The excellent stone shrub and flower bed in the well maintained Cappog estate was being tended by a lone villager on the day – volunteerism at its best and dedication to the cause indeed. The village pump provides a nice centre piece supplemented by flowers and shrubs, very colourful on what was a nice "real" summer's day.

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

Ballinode has made full use of its river side location with the excellent Riverside Park which, not only is a local amenity, but also a source of wildlife. The well designed notice boards give a documented pocket history of the species of wildlife associated with the Village and its surrounds. Any additional wildlife options in the surrounding locale such as a designated nature walk, should be considered.

Links with the local national school could be developed in the winter period to examine the possibility of putting together the structure for a dedicated wildlife project that would be of benefit to the Village.

### **Litter Control:**

The village's continued participation in the National Spring Clean is to be commended and provides a further vehicle for advertising the hard work being carried out by the committee. As previously mentioned, there appeared to be some rubbish gathering in the river further down from the bridge on the Monaghan Rd. bend section. There were some small pieces of litter on the walk from St Dymphna's to Murrays/Centra, as well as pieces of litter in and around the astro turf pitch. Overall, the standard was good and seemed to be an improvement on last year based on what the report had contained. For your efforts and the measures you have taken to try and combat and reduce the litter problem, you are awarded an additional mark.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Waste Minimisation is an increasingly key area for TidyTowns providing an essential environmental component. Any small steps such as provision of a composting facility are steps in the right direction. It might be worthwhile if you could organise an information session for the Community and have the County Environmental Officer attend to provide practical advice. Also, do consult the Race Against Waste website to obtain further information on possible projects that would suit Ballinode.

### **Tidiness:**

The committee's efforts in this area are noted and tidy verges were evident on all approach roads on adjudication day. Well done to the Committee on engaging with the ESB regarding the telephone poles.

There was some dereliction evident on the Tydavnet Rd. with a shed and boundary wall looking worse for wear. While it is a minor issue, the pump across from Murrays/Centra should also be kept free of any litter or leaves gathering around its base. There were some weeds still evident on the Clogher junction. Overall, a good standard was achieved in this category and some areas of concern noted in last years report have been

addressed, and improvements made.

### **Residential Areas:**

The cottages on the Monaghan approach are in excellent condition and credit is due to the residents for taking pride in their homes, one resident was diligently tidying the frontage on the day. In addition, the beautifully restored thatched cottage on the Scotstown road adds a traditional and homely feel to Ballinode at that particular entrance. The period house on the opposite side was also in fine condition. The quirky sign relating to 'forty shillings' fine for leaving the Gate open is an eye catcher.

Cappog estate is a fresh and well maintained area with some excellent stone flower beds and nice relatively new boundary fencing.

This is a testament to the hard work of the residents association. Both, the Glenowen and Riverside estates, were also in a very tidy state and homesteads were in good condition. It is very pleasing to note that nearly all residents have bought into the idea that TidyTowns benefits the community as a whole. Well done to all concerned.

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

There is excellent signage on the Scotstown and Tydavnet approach roads. The majority of flower and shrub beds were in bright condition and this is to be commended. Verges and hedges on all approach roads were tidy on adjudication day and it looked like that they had been cut back in accordance with recommended guidelines.

### **General Impression:**

It was a very pleasant experience to visit Ballinode for the very first time and to experience its rural charm. The Committee is small, but even so it has succeeded in getting the local community to support its efforts to elevate the village's standing in the competition.

A large body of work has been undertaken since last year's competition and for this you are to be congratulated. Ballinode has the potential to achieve a higher rating in the years ahead and this adjudicator will look forward to seeing the village move up the competition ratings in time.