

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinafad** Ref: **1411**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **203**
Category: **A** Date(s): **01/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	11
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	23
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	203

Overall Development Approach:

Ballinafad Tidy Towns Association shows an obvious pride in their local environment and concern with its future development. The application was very professional and impressive and full of useful information regarding the village. It was interesting to note that this was your second year of entry and you certainly seem to have achieved a lot in this short space of time! Congratulations on the development of your website. It was heartening to hear that you work in conjunction with a number of local agencies - in particular Sligo County Council, the Fisheries Board and local businesses. Your relationship with Corrigeenroe National School was a good approach to the lack of school in the village itself. The newly inaugurated St Patrick's Day Parade must have been a sight to behold! Ongoing monitoring of your progress in relation to the Donaladson report is an excellent strategy.

The Built Environment:

The castle is a most unusual and delightful feature to have in the village and obviously the source of much pride. The ongoing work that you have achieved in terms of landscaping etc is a marvellous achievement. The church and its grassy banks and hedging were well maintained on the day. The Community Centre was very fresh as was the Mayfly, with its planting to the front. The remedial works you have conducted on the Angler's Rest were noted and applauded. Keep up your communication with Sligo County Council in this regard, as it is a lovely vernacular building, which would benefit greatly from restoration. The Post Office was very fresh on the day. The Field Study Centre is an unusual building in terms of the design and materials used in it.

Landscaping:

The Amenity area opposite the Mayfly was admired with its picnic areas, and stonewall surround and the playing pitches must be a marvellous asset to the children and young people of the village. We noted your plans to remove the pile of stones in this location. The landscaping to the church was commented on

elsewhere in this report. The grounds and works at the Field Study Centre Building were noted and greatly admired. Using this area as a guide other possible landscape projects seems like a good plan. New trees and hedging were noted on the approach road from Dublin/Sligo.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

This is an area of the competition that you appear to have given a lot of thought to and your plans regarding its future development were noted and admired. The lakeside areas are a marvellous amenity to have so close to the village centre. We were pleased to hear of the spawning beds on the Srugal River. The provision of a Nature Trail will be a great feature for local and visitor alike. The sowing of wildflowers and trees at the amenity area will be a marvellous asset in years to come. The wildlife and habitat survey will give you a good idea for planning the future management of these areas.

Litter Control:

The standard in this category of the competition was very good on the day - only the odd paper being noted on the main street. You would appear to have tackled this area of the competition logically and with vigour and your hard work is paying off. There were only a very few papers evident on adjudication day.

Waste Minimisation:

The bins at the recycling area were well maintained. The use of low energy bulbs at the church is to be applauded. The segregation of waste during pick-ups is a good idea. Contacting the environmental awareness department in Sligo County Council requesting their involvement with your work was a good idea.

Tidiness:

The village generally had a neat appearance on the day. Weed control was a problem to the kerbs to the new housing estate on the lakeshore road, where weeds had been sprayed but not removed and a similar situation at the top of the town. The area to the side of the Community Centre appears a little rough and would benefit from landscaping. A tin shed on the road to the lakeside would benefit from a coat of paint before next year's competition.

Residential Areas:

It was heartening to hear that your local estates participate in Sligo County Council's Best Kept Estates competition. As noted by yourselves, it would be important to ensure that these new estates have nameplates to help give them a sense of identity. The housing estate with rendered and stone facaded houses, near the Mayfly was maturing nicely. Castle View Estate was well maintained in terms of its houses and open spaces. The houses that form the main street were generally very neat and fresh - some sported hanging baskets and window boxes. It was good to hear of your "less is more" approach to these items, as this is always the best policy!

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The two main approach roads from Dublin and Sligo was generally well presented. The power-hosing of nameplate signs is obviously paying off. The lakeside road was very well maintained, and sported some fine examples of habitat planting such as ferns and reeds. It affords the traveller a fine view to the village above. The car park area in this location could be further defined.

General Impression:

Ballinacfad is a very peaceful village which was a pleasure to visit for the first time. Its residents show an obvious pride in its appearance and have gone to a lot of thought and effort to plan a strategic approach to its betterment.