

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballisodare** Ref: **749**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **234**
Category: **C** Date(s): **04/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	19
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	234

Overall Development Approach:

Ballisodare Towns Committee is welcome to the 2009 competition. Your 3 to 5 year plan was short and to the point, with some worthwhile ideas. We would suggest that you put a time frame against the achievement of your goals in order that both yourselves and the judges can see your progress as the years go by. We were pleased to hear that the national school had achieved Green Flag status with your assistance and that you encourage local estates to enter Sligo County Council's best kept estates competition. It might be worthwhile submitting your Village Design Statement with next year's application. Plans for having bi-lingual signage are a good idea.

The Built Environment:

There has been a lot of change in Ballisodare over the last number of years with enormous developments taking place. We have read with dismay in applications from many towns and villages that work has stopped on a number of sites, causing incomplete buildings to scar the streetscapes, and the same appears to be the case here. The Post Office looked very fresh and O'Connor's with its traditional cast iron canopy was much admired. The site opposite looked somewhat sad and neglected in comparison. Most buildings along the main street were in good condition. The vernacular style development at the Just Inn was admired for its use of traditional sash windows. The Thatch was well presented on the Collooney Road, and Toolin's was quite fresh.

Landscaping:

The grotto sported some freshly painted statuary and its landscaping was in good condition. The riverside areas with seating etc. by the bridge were well presented and neat. There was evidence of tree planting to a new development on the Main Street side of the river. Incidental landscaped spaces such as the roses to a wall opposite the Thatch and daisies overspilling a wall on the Ballina Road make a cheerful impact. We read

with interest of your plans to harvest the Salley trees and wondered if it might be worthwhile designing and constructing a willow structure to promote this important local heritage?

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You would appear to have a number of good ideas for developing this category of the competition. The bird hide sounds like an excellent idea and we look forward to seeing the results of your habitat survey. The leaflet is also a good initiative. Consulting with Birdwatch Ireland and Dochas in this regard is a good idea.

Litter Control:

The standard in this category was not good on the day. There was evidence of litter along the main street and approach roads. Quite a lot was evident on the Sligo and Collooney Roads. Litter was also apparent on the Ballina Road.

Waste Minimisation:

The new composting area on the Ballygawley Road is a marvellous initiative and we wish you luck with plans to develop this further. Plans to segregate waste are a good idea. We were pleased to hear of your participation in the school's Green Flag initiative.

Tidiness:

There was some evidence of green algae growth on the bridge on the day, so presumably work mentioned in your submission at this location had not been completed on the day. The hoarded up site opposite O'Connor's has been mentioned elsewhere in this report. There are a number of derelict properties along the Main Street, which is sad to see. A broken sign on the Collooney Road looked unfortunate.

Residential Areas:

The housing estates were generally well cared for on the day, of note being Knockmuldowney Park and Salmon Court. Cluain Dara looked well with its silhouette of running figures, and its planting looked well. We were pleased to hear that you encourage them to enter the Best Kept Estates Competition organised by Sligo County Council. The idea of re-instating the Best Kept Garden Competition sounds like a good idea.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads were reasonable on the day but could do with more attention. The Sligo Road was well maintained, with attractive stone walling and new trees maturing well. Valerian was admired over-spilling a wall in this location. The Collooney road was not as well maintained.

General Impression:

Ballisodare is set in a unique location near the mountains and next to the riverside and Ballisodare Bay. It looked well on adjudication day.