

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballymote** Ref: **746**
County: **Sligo** Mark: **225**
Category: **D** Date(s): **02/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	39
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	22
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	10
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	15
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	225

Overall Development Approach:

Ballymote TidyTowns Committee is welcome to the 2009 competition. Your submission was concise and to the point, which is always welcome. It was good to note that you are closely monitoring your progress in relation to your ten year plan and are now in your sixth year of this plan. You would appear to have a good working relationship with local bodies and businesses. You mention that you have contacted school principals with regard to attending your meetings - have you made any progress in this regard? Other towns find that a close relationship with local schools can be very beneficial to their work. It was good to note that you are receiving a greater number of volunteers to help with your work.

The Built Environment:

The castle is a marvellous item of heritage to have so close to the town centre. Its landscaping and connection through to the railway station and its marvellous landscaping make a strong impact. The standard in this category of the competition was somewhat inconsistent, however. Many of the commercial and public buildings of the town looked somewhat neglected on the day. The railings of Scoil Mhuire looked quite neglected and flaky. The Spraoi centre looked quite fresh and well presented, as did the community school. The two churches were presented to a high standard. The old cinema building at the top of the town would benefit from restoration, as it is a fine example of a building of its type and time. The banks were generally well presented, of note being Ulster Bank. Loftus Hall would benefit from a fresh coat of paint before next year's competition. The Co-op forecourt area would benefit from resurfacing and the adjacent Fire Station looked quite neglected.

Landscaping:

This is an aspect of the competition which you evidently enjoy greatly, from the small landscaped tub features at the entrances to the town through to the large park areas by the castle and at the Sligo entrance to the

town. The planted bed by the courthouse was as well maintained as ever. The screening to the industrial premises along the Sligo approach are a nice touch and maturing well. Tree planting to the housing estate on the Sligo Road was maturing nicely. The banking and timber welcome signage along a bend on this road looked extremely well. The park was being well utilised on the day.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

This is an area of the competition that you are tackling quite well, as witnessed by your documentation, therefore it was disappointing to see that you had left this section on the application form blank! Your supporting documents show that there is a strong sense of awareness of the local habitats and your plans to attend workshops to further develop this aspect of the competition are applauded.

Litter Control:

The standard in this category of the competition was not very good on the day. Litter and papers and abandoned bottles were evident blowing along the main streets of the town and on approach roads. You mention in your application several plans for promotion of litter awareness including a poster competition for the after-school club, have these initiatives had any impact?

Waste Minimisation:

The problems you have been having in relation to dumping at the recycling area was noted and you would appear to have this problem under control.

Tidiness:

The standard in this category of the competition could have been higher. We note your ongoing dialogue with the County Council in regard to neglected and derelict buildings, which appears to be having effect on an ongoing basis. Some weed problems were noted in the vicinity of the Spraoi Centre at the top of the hill. Christmas lights were still evident on some buildings and looked somewhat unseasonal on a bright warm June day!

Residential Areas:

Do your local estates take part in the Sligo County Council Tidy Estates competition, or have you considered holding a garden or estates competition within the town itself? This might be a worthwhile endeavour. Individual houses on approach roads and within the town centre were generally well maintained with some attractive gardens. Estates in the town were generally well cared for. The houses of Hillview Estate were fresh and well presented, but the open space to the front appeared in need of some trimming to the grassy open space.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads appeared somewhat overgrown, although the new signage was admired. The copper beech trees on the Sligo Road are maturing nicely, although litter was apparent on this approach to the town. Some of the directional signage in the town was quite grubby and we note your negotiations with Sligo County Council in this regard. Road surfaces were in bad order along the Drumfin Road.

General Impression:

It was a number of years since this adjudicator had visited Ballymote and it was a little disappointing to note that there were still some problem areas with regard to neglected premises and dereliction.