

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castlebaldwin** Ref: **1882**  
County: **Sligo** Mark: **192**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **06/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	24
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	10
Litter Control	50	27
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>192</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Castlebaldwin Tidy Towns Committee is welcome to the 2009 Competition. You would appear to be quite a small committee and we were wondering was this a problem for you in your work, or do you find that this is sufficient for your needs? From your submission, you would appear to have a high level of support within the local community, and we read with interest that you feel that your efforts are gaining momentum. You would also appear to have a good working relationship with Sligo County Council, which was pleasing to hear. You also seem to have a good relationship with the local school.

### The Built Environment:

The standard in this category of the competition was somewhat inconsistent on the day. The gable of Ryan's appeared to be in need of some work on the day. Mc Dermott's looked very cheerful on a wet summer's day, with its colourful window boxes. The school was very fresh, although its boundary wall had yet to be painted. The boundary wall of the old school looked somewhat neglected on the day, although the building itself was quite fresh. Dead weeds were evident to the boundary. The petrol station and Fast-Fit Centre looked well on the day, as did Hunt Motors – the latter sported some attractive planting behind its boundary wall. A couple of traditional stepped gabled garages were admired-one was freshly painted, the other appeared in need of a fresh coat of paint. Plastic signage should be replaced with ones of a more traditional timber variety.

### Landscaping:

We note in your application the hard work undertaken with regard to this category of the competition. The village green area looked well and is an attractive focal point for the village. The central feature of the crib looked a little unseasonal, and it was wondered if this could be re-designed in order that it look more permanent?

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

This is an area of the competition that you could give further attention to. We were pleased to hear that you had contacted a local expert regarding bird habitats and his/her further involvement in the competition. Have you considered getting the local school-children involved in putting together a wildlife survey, in conjunction with this local expert? Have you considered erecting bird/ bat boxes, or creating a wildlife garden or sowing wildflower meadows?

**Litter Control:**

The standard in this category of the competition could have been better on the day-some papers were evident along the main streets, and along approach roads. Even a small amount of litter is all the more evident in a village of Castlebaldwin's size. The village's location on the busy Dublin-Sligo road must make monitoring of this situation problematic. We were pleased to hear of your weekly clean-ups, proposed litter bins and anti-graffiti campaign and wish you luck with these projects.

**Waste Minimisation:**

The recycling area was reasonably well maintained, considering the fact that there were adjacent skips from the building work taking place at the petrol station. This may have made access to them somewhat difficult. We were pleased to hear of your plans in relation to creation of a composting area and encouraging the school to take part in the Green Schools Programme.

**Tidiness:**

There were a few apparently abandoned building sites, which looked unfortunate on the day-one opposite the petrol station and another opposite the old school. A few outbuildings looked somewhat neglected on the day, one opposite the petrol station, whose tin roof would have benefited from a fresh coat of traditional red colour and sported a broken window. Weed control was evident to the front of the adjacent cottage, and along the Ballymote road. Some other tin-roofed sheds to the Sligo side of the village would also benefit from a fresh coat of paint.

**Residential Areas:**

New housing estates are evident throughout the village and these were landscaped with tree planting etc. This is all to the good and these were generally well maintained. Ashbrook estate was particularly admired. Existing individual houses in the village and along approach roads were generally well maintained with attractive gardens - one freshly painted house in particular was admired on the Sligo road. Potholes were evident to the roadway behind the crib/grotto.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The approach roads were a little neglected on the day-verges appeared quite overgrown. It is important that a balance is struck in order to ensure that these look natural, without looking wild and unkempt. The Dublin Road was in better condition than the Sligo Road. Do discourage advertising hoardings, which can give approach roads a somewhat cluttered appearance. Have you considered contacting Sligo County Council regarding traffic-calming measures, as the traffic positively THUNDERS through the village centre.

**General Impression:**

It was a number of years since this adjudicator had visited Castlebaldwin and it was good to see that its residents are showing a high level of care in relation to the village's appearance. Its location on the busy N4 route must make difficulties for you in your work and we wish you luck with your future endeavours.