

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyneale** Ref: **630**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **234**
Category: **A** Date(s): **04/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	234

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to the Ballyneale Tidy Towns Committee for participating in the Tidy Towns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission and for your most helpful hand drawn map. It is a pity that you did not include a 3-5 Year Plan. If you do not have such a plan, the exercise of compiling it would enable you to set immediate and medium term targets for yourselves, would help you decide which local bodies and agencies would assist you with your various projects. As all projects need funding, you would set down in your plan how you propose to fund these various projects. You do not mention in your submission which agencies you engage with at present. Well done on encouraging the school with the Green Flag Status. In next year's submission include the GPS co-ordinates on the map to help the adjudicator find you. This adjudicator almost gave marks to Ballyneale in another county.

The Built Environment:

The Church and graveyard are the focal points of the built environment of Ballyneale. When the parish hall is renovated, it will enhance the centre of the village and work is progressing with great promise. It is sad that Ballyneale does not have a shop to enhance the image of a thriving village centre, as was the case until recently, one presumes. One wonders if the 'pub of the year 2003' is still dispensing beakers of porter. The Vote No 1 for Healy Rea is a quaint anachronism. Even though, it is no longer in use, the fact that those buildings across from the Church are gaily painted improves the overall picture. That high standard of painting needs to be maintained. Ballyneale possesses two plaques, a village proud of its past. The Church, both inside and outside, is a joy. The seats in the graveyard and in the car park bid one to rest in this sacred part of the village. Houses throughout express pride. The extension to the school adds more beauty to that area. The stone building at the rear of the Church, now a shed, is a gem worth maintaining.

Landscaping:

Someone has green fingers in Ballyneale. In fact, there has been a history of green fingered residents for a number of generations in Ballyneale. A lot of wonderful work has been carried out over the years and to great effect. The wall of the car park at the Church is softened in tone and made visually interesting by the planting done there. By contrast the hedge at the school car park does need attention. The deserted appearance of the disused buildings across from the Church is also softened by the use of boxes and hanging baskets. The box of bedding plants at the pump is most attractive. Bedding plants might make the bed at the Ballyneale village sign more attractive.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You mentioned that an expert was to come to the school to talk to the students. Why not get the expert to talk to you. Ballyneale is a natural resource for wildlife. There may be people in your community who have an informed interest in wildlife, and who would be willing to assist you with this section of the competition. When planning your landscaping projects keep in mind the welfare of birds and bees. Your marks would increase were you to carry out a survey of the wildlife in the area, as advised in last year's report. The advice given in last year's report is worth following.

Litter Control:

The absence of litter does not happen without careful planning and hard work. Ballyneale could be declared a litter free village. The regular clean-ups are having an effect, although twelve bags of rubbish seems an awful amount for a small village. As a next step, you might engage with the school on the matter of litter reduction.

Waste Minimisation:

One feels that you have not yet come to terms with the challenges posed by this section. It is a step in the right direction that you took part in the Spring Clean. Next time, examine the material collected, segregate that material and set about eliminating that kind of waste in the future. It could benefit your committee to study the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. Such a study would stimulate new waste elimination projects for you. Remember that the emphasis in this section is not on litter control, but on minimising waste in your community. Your solar powered flashing school lights are an example of waste minimisation.

Tidiness:

Ballyneale presents a tidy image to the world. You have worked on this neat image through eliminating eye sores by planting grass, trees, shrubs. You create your neat image through the high standard of maintenance of public buildings like the school, Church and graveyard. A coat of paint on buildings no longer in use is a great help. Neat grass verges also help. The car parks at the Church and school are spacious and clearly marked, creating a traffic calming effect. The fine footpaths also add to the tidy appearance. Make sure that signposts are painted and cleaned. Two community alert signs are in need of attention. If an opportunity to bury cables presents itself, grasp it.

Residential Areas:

Private houses are a joy throughout, whether bungalows or cottages. There is a sense of pride expressed in their appearance, their maintenance, in the front gardens. Castleview is now well defined with its proud name stone. Despite the disturbance of the construction work, the estate looked well and will improve when planting beds in.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads to a village are the first impression one gets of a village and are, therefore, very important. The meandering road into town at the school side is full of interest. One gets the first feel of a cared for place. The stonewalled farmhouse could charge a fee just to look in. The timber railings, the hedges and stone walls create an attractive mixed bag. Then to enhance the picture, there is the wild look of mixed vegetation on one side and the neatly cut verges on the other. The approach road past the pump is full of interest too. The pump painted black, with the freshly painted white surround, is most pleasant. One feels that this could have been a village of stone masons, so elegant is the wall leading to the Church. The cables are a shame. There is one cable to one of the new houses and one wonders why.

General Impression:

If at times you feel like giving up, just think of the impact you have made on Ballyneale. Imagine the village

without your efforts. Ballyneale is a delightful place to visit. You help to make it a place to be proud to live in.
Nár laga Dia sibh.