

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinalee** Ref: **742**
County: **Longford** Mark: **241**
Category: **B** Date(s): **29/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	30
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	30
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	22
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	9
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	28
TOTAL MARK	450	241

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Ballinalee is welcomed to the Tidy's Towns competition for 2014. Thank you for your completed entry form. Your committee of 12 have good support from the Partnership, Department of Social Protection and the local G.A.A. Your communication by newsletter or newspaper is noted. Try using social media or texting. The school plays their part in litter picks and this is very important. It is also noted that you have workers that help you complete your projects and maintain existing ones. The competition has helped in enhancing the village and has created a greater community spirit. You are welcomed back to the competition after a break last year. Your participation in the competition is important to the Tidy Towns unit. Do try and put together a plan of work for the next 2-3 years. You may have some member that will be able to put a plan together, if not seek outside help and send a copy with next year's entry. Only projects that are realistic and you will be able to complete should be included.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

On entering the village the Sean McKeown monument stands tall and occupies a prominent position in the village. Rawle's pub was also noted and admired. James Maguire memorial park was also visited. The Holy Trinity Church on an elevated site with nice landscaped beds looked splendid. Farrell's pub was also admired with some pleasant landscaping. There is a roof in need of painting across the road which unfortunately takes from the area. St. Johns Church and graveyard looked well maintained. The School looked good but the front wall is in need of freshening with a coat of paint. Stags Head pub was also noted. The new playground in this area is a superb amenity and was admired.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The village is set in a rural location and is bordered by mature trees, hedging and superb wooden palings. Along this long span of wooden paling maybe trees could be planted. The entrance signs to the village looked well and there was some pleasant landscaping at river crescent. At Aughnacliffe road entrance the bridge had nice planters which enhanced the dark grey stone. Year round seasonal planting is recommended by the Tidy Towns as it provides colour all year and is more cost effective to groups.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

There are many natural habitats for wildlife of Ballinalee in the walls, trees and hedging that borders the village. The village is also privileged to have access to Gurteen Lake. This access is via the Pitch and Putt and it has very good potential for you as a group to develop and gain marks in this category. It is good for the community to gain an understanding and appreciation of existing habitats and species within their area. This can be started by carrying

out an overview of the wildlife and habitats of the area. A study with an expert can be useful involving the school children and group members in any of the areas such as habitat, biodiversity or ecological. This survey would enable you to gather information on the species and habitats found in the community. Many communities have local wildlife experts who would be welcome to give their time and help with this. The National Parks and Wildlife service www.npws.ie can zoom into a map of your area and provide information on designated sites and protected species. The key results and outcomes of the survey can be documented and a copy included with your entry.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

You are making a start by building a composting area behind the playground. Can this site be accessed by the community? This will help with activities on composting and reusing. Do look at areas where waste prevention can be implemented such as food waste. Some groups are doing workshops in this area and find it helpful. Also look to resource management in the areas of water, transport and energy. Harvesting of rainwater is becoming popular with groups with the water charges being introduced. This will save the community water and funds. Groups are also encouraged to move away from sowing bedding plants that require large volumes of water. Energy and transport are areas where large savings can be made. Continue to encourage businesses to recycle and work with the school in this area. The local authorities prevention network website have added a specific Tidy Towns page to this website providing practical tips and advice on sustainable waste and resource management. The website address is <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>. This hopefully will be of benefit to groups.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Your plan on litter is working well. Your National Clean up gets the ball rolling which is continued thereafter on a weekly basis. Litter picks should be carried out right through the year. Areas that are fortunate to have workers will give tremendous help in this area. Getting the school children involved along with the wider community creates a good awareness on controlling litter. There was some weed growth noted on day of adjudication. The vacant site down from Farrell's Hardware could do with some attention, maybe planting of some hedging. Some boundary walls were also in need of painting. Some signage just needs cleaning. The bring bank was tidy on the day.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

Houses and gardens were well presented and maintained. Riverside has an attractive entrance stone and good landscaping. River crescent also had nice seating and planting. All houses throughout the village were presented to a high standard. Gardens were neat and colourful. Hanging baskets and window boxes all gave that extra colour. There were some boundary walls in need of freshening and some areas of weed growth. Well done to all the residents on their work in this category.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

Approach roads have nice village signs. Failte signs on stone were admired. There was also some superb landscaping at the base of the signs. Aughtnaclyffe road had a nice bridge at entrance with planters. The grass verges were well maintained with mature trees and hedging and good landscaped beds were admired. There is a long stretch of wooden paling that looks very well but the adjudicator felt that planting trees along this paling would enhance this stretch of road. Planting of one tree species would create a better impact and form an avenue effect.