

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinamuck** Ref: **475**
County: **Longford** Mark: **234**
Category: **B** Date(s): **21/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	38
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	36
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	33
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	12
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	8
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	53
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	26
TOTAL MARK	450	234

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Ballinamuck is welcomed to the 2014 Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for your entry, map and photos of completed projects. It is good to note that your committee have doubled in size to 14 since last year. The many fundraising activities and the support from local agencies will help out with the necessary funds and assistance needed to progress with further developments in the village. Your involvement with the local school is important in your work in the competition as each can support and learn from one another. The positive feedback on your efforts in enhancing the village is encouraging and will get more of the community involved as you progress in the competition. Do include a summary of the year's projects from your plan with your entry next year.

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

The 98 bar with its thatched roof makes an attractive vista at the entrance to your village. The Visitors Centre towers over the village 1798-1948. Its walls and surround contain artefacts and memoirs of the Battle of Ballinamuck which is an important part of the past history of the village. The Post Office and the house beside were admired. A phone box which is a rare study was also noted. The play area for children was visited and admired. The Church and cemetery was also visited and admired. The Garden of Remembrance was well landscaped with nice seating which is well maintained. Dillon's Bar is a busy well decorated building. The water feature with its well-manicured landscaping in the village centre makes a pleasant sight. The new village signs were noted. Well done to the stonemason on his work on the stone flower bed surrounds.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

There is superb landscaping in the tress, hedging and rolling green fields of this village located in rural Ireland. The landscaping in the Garden of Remembrance and in various parts of the village compliments this setting. Groups are encouraged to provide year round seasonal interest in their planting of hedges and shrubs. This type of planting is also more cost effective. The many window boxes and hanging baskets brings added colour to the streetscape.

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

The school is once again congratulated for winning first prize for the second year running in the ICA schools garden competition. The herb garden at the back of the Community Hall was noted. The well crafted bird boxes were also admired. There are many areas of natural habitats for wildlife throughout the village. Groups are encouraged to carry out an overview of the wildlife and habitats of their area. This could be done in the form of a study or survey to gather baseline information on species and habitats found in the community. Many communities have local wildlife experts who could give their time to help out in a study. The school children should also be involved. Communities

are also encouraged to host events that celebrate and raise awareness of local species and habitats. This could be a tree planting day or a wildflower walk or talk from an expert. Assistance for this can be obtained from the local authority. This can be part of heritage week and held annually. Copies of any survey undertaken should be included with your Tidy Towns entry.

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

This category is about waste prevention and reducing the amount of waste produced in the community in the first place. St Patricks National School are to be commended on gaining three green flags in the past 3 years. During their work for the green flags the school will have gained knowledge that could help in your efforts with waste minimisation. Groups are encouraged to carry out some type of waste awareness survey to ascertain what level the community are at in terms of waste prevention. Composting is another area that the wider community can use. Rainwater harvesting can also be extended to the wider community and can save water and funds. 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:

Well done on your work plan in controlling litter which appears to be working well. Publicising your work on Facebook and parish newsletter highlights your zero tolerance on litter. Taking part in National Spring clean week or County litter league initiative involving the school children and the wider community creates a positive awareness on your anti-litter campaign. The village looks neat with no overhead wires visible. The redundant pole at 98 bar entrance could be removed.

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

The residential streets and housing areas were well presented. Naomh Padraig has a nice stone feature at entrance. The wooden paling was carefully being painted on day of adjudication. Shanmullagh Cuirt was also admired for its superb well-kept homes and landscaping. Many stand alone houses that form the streetscape had well maintained neat gardens and colourful flowers that were admired. The use of the Irish language in signage was welcomed. The unoccupied house and shed have been brought back to life and looked clean and fresh. Well done to all the residents for their work in this category.

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

The village has some long stretches of approach roads particular from the 98 bar. You are doing good work in maintaining these. Some stone walls were noted that need repair. The plan to stone face the bridge as you enter the village will enhance this area greatly. Native hedging along wire fencing would enhance the boundaries where necessary and field gates painted in a uniform colour would do likewise. There are many places of historical interest in Ballinamuck. The battle trails if developed as walks would create interest among the community and visitors alike.