

# Tidy Towns Competition 2014

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballymahon** Ref: **896**  
County: **Longford** Mark: **221**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **25/06/2014**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	30
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	33
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	18
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	9
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	44
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	27
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	27
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>221</b>

### **Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:**

Ballymahon is welcomed to the 2014 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your entry and map. Your participation in the competition is important to the Tidy Towns unit. You have a large committee with good support from local agencies and businesses providing sponsorship and other assistance when required. You also communicate well with the community via social media and local newspapers. The school are important members to have on your committee from which you can form a Junior Tidy Towns as a sub committee. It is positive to note that the competition has created awareness and has given the community a sense of pride in their town. Do try and put a three year plan in place for the town. This can be drawn up by the community allowing for realistic projects to be completed each year. It also gives the committee a focus.

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

Your best maintained premises competition is a novel way of encouraging businesses to up the anti in the presentation of premises. Looking around main street many premises could be in vying for that weekend away. The town hall with sculptors makes a superb impression on the streetscape. Nally's busy shop and filling station looks well. Nice hanging baskets on paling across were noted and admired. St Mathews National School with its green flags was admired as was the Vocational School. The impressive building of the church with blue doors and dark grey stone compliment and the Dean Egan library was well maintained. On the drive to the Mercy Secondary School important buildings of past and present were visible. The playground were also visited and admired. The Doctors Surgery and newly landscaped area was admired. Some graffiti was noticed here which unfortunately distracts. The superb old church building across the road was slightly hidden. Aidan Cooney's hotel an important building in the town looked splendid.

### **Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:**

On approach from Longford one is met with the splendid landscaping of the canal. It is great to see the Royal Canal restored to its former greatness and even better to see it been used by the community as a superb amenity area. The tastefully planted wording of the Royal Canal is eye catching. The flower containers on the bridge added more colour. The planting at the Doctors Surgery which presented year round seasonal planting was admired. This type of planting is recommended. It is more cost effective for groups and presents year round seasonal colour in the town. The many planted containers added colour to the streetscape. Planters of flowers were also used to great effect on the N55. Bright planters of flowers lights up the grey stone of the splendid Mill and the bridge over the Inny.

### **Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fia dhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Ná dúrtha:**

Ballymahon is fortunate to have many habitat areas suitable for wildlife, the canal, Inny River, wildlife garden, trees, hedging and stone walls that are part of the town's boundary are all suitable. Groups are encouraged to carry out an overview of the wildlife and habitats of their area. This is a study/survey to gather baseline information on the species and habitats found in water, hedgerows or bog land. Many communities have experts who would be willing to give their time or advice in approaching and conducting a survey. It is good for children and group members to work together in any new surveys. After conducting a survey the community is better informed on how to maintain existing habitats and develop new ones. All results can be published and used to create information boards.

### **Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithé:**

This category is about waste prevention and wider resource efficiency across the community and not just waste management itself. Measures where savings can be made are in the area of water, transport and energy. Well done to the two schools that were awarded their green flag, it is a great achievement. The community and schools should work together and learn from one another. Your composting facility in partnership with the Royal Canal Amenity Group is good. There could also be a community composter in the town and this is also an area that households across the community could use. You are fortunate to have the River Inny close by but rainwater harvesting is an area that the wider community could look at in particular with water meters being introduced. Tidy Towns Groups should be encouraged to carry out some type of waste awareness survey to ascertain what level the community is at in terms of waste prevention. 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 controlling litter appears to be working well. It shows great dedication for volunteers to turn up every Sunday morning to pick litter. Does your group take part in the National Spring Clean or County Litter Leagues initiatives? Some litter was noticed on adjudication day at school road and along at cattle mart. There were some areas of untidiness noted. Some grass growth was noticed at the GAA grounds. On Lanesborough road encroaching foliage at the school and directional signs was noticed. There was also some graffiti noticed on service points on the road to Thomand Lodge and on the sign at Shrule Road.

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

There are many areas of superb housing such as Moyvale Estate and Marian Terrace where nice entrances were noted and admired. The residents should be proud of their houses in the manner in which they were maintained and presented. Your support to the residents association is applauded. It's all about helping each other and this is what you are promoting. The streetscape has a lovely mix of houses from the imposing Mill displaying colourful planting to the traditional houses of Ballymahon that have blended in with the more modern build. This great mix of a well presented streetscape with hanging baskets, window boxes and colourful neat gardens was greatly admired.

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

The village entrance signs were admired. Grass verges were neat. You could allow a beeline of grass left on the outside of hedging which creates a corridor for wildlife. You can still mow and cut a strip to the front which will still give an order of neatness. On Mullingar road entrance newly planted hawthorn hedging was noted. There were superb planters of flowers on N55 road and at various points on Main Street. On Lanesborough Road a gate needing attention was noted. All field gates should be painted a uniform colour if possible. As one enters from the Athlone road stone walls here were in need of improvements. A project for another year perhaps. Well done on your work over all the categories for this year's competition.