

# Tidy Towns Competition 2014

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyorgan** Ref: **443**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **269**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **04/06/2014**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	43
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	36
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	28
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	26
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	26
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>269</b>

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

The village is in a beautiful setting and hence it is not surprising you have holiday cottages in the area. You are a small committee but you have achieved a lot! Your map and entry form was very clear and easy to follow. Thank you for the effort you put into this. You have worked hard to involve the children of the community where possible and this is to be commended. What a delight it was to learn that your Gathering event was so successful – well done to all involved as this would have been a lot of effort for a small community. Do you have a long-term plan for your work? This is a very helpful document as it helps focus work. The TidyTowns website or office can provide templates to assist you with this simple task.

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

There are many lovely premises through Ballyorgan that all work together to form a picturesque village in rural Limerick. The Church was admired and the village pump looked well though part is missing – could a replacement part be found for this?

The two storey warehouse building in the centre of Ballyorgan is a challenge for the community. There is an alarm on this building – what is it used for? The map says 'old hall' - is it still used?

The derelict house with the red tin roof and painted windows looked well. You have carried out similar work on a number of empty homes and this makes a difference. Where premises were once shops, could a simple heritage related display be provided in the windows to inform walkers or visitors of your history? Information boards were provided on the Ballyhoura Way and it is hoped that these walks, and other looped walks, attract people to the area and to enjoy a stay at the attractive Village Inn which looks fresh and good with outdoor seating provided. Lantern Lodge also looked well though the road-sign here could be brightened up.

The old Church of Ireland school was found, and there is a lovely wrought iron gate here. Are there any plans for this building?

The holiday cottages were visited but it was so sad to see how badly this area was damaged in the winter storms in particular the new outdoor equipment. But the chalets looked well here and it is hoped that they quickly recover from this. The Gate Lodge for Castle Oliver was admired – what a fantastic period building you have here. Can some restoration works be carried out on the beautiful wrought iron gates here as this would make a great advertisement for the estate? Limerick County Council's Conservation architect or Heritage Office should be able to provide some advice in this regard.

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

You start with a wonderful setting of Ballyorgan so little is needed with regard to landscaping. But the planted areas provided were wonderful – quite natural planting that blended well into the beautiful surroundings of Ballyorgan. There was a nice planter by the post box. There was a fantastic bank of planting by Moynahans. The fenced-off area down the street with buddleia, across from the Old forge, looks very natural and also blended well into the local environment.

There were some nice hanging baskets on some of the telegraph poles in the village. Do ensure there is no danger here with watering the baskets please as we wouldn't want any harm to come to your TidyTown's volunteers.

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

It was great to read that you have kestrels locally and have erected bird boxes. Have they been used this year? Have you organised any evening bird or nature walks in Ballyorgan? You have identified the issue of Japanese knotweed. Approaching Ballyorgan there are a number of stands of this invasive plant so this should also be highlighted to the council. The website [www.invasivespecsireland.com](http://www.invasivespecsireland.com) provides information on the treatment and how easily this plant can spread.

The workshop you attended on bees should have provided you with lots of ideas for suitable native plants that would provide nectar rich plants for the declining bee population. These insects provide millions of euros worth of work to the Irish economy through their pollination efforts.

There is a lovely access spot to the river at the bottom of the hill. There are many mature trees through the village that were not impacted by the winter storms.

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

Well done in the use of water butts through the community and for encouraging the community to donate and recycle. You have also adopted a number of sustainable policies such as printing double sided and using low-energy light bulbs.

Your adjudicator is keen to know the results of the composting survey to see if your workshop had inspired more in the community to start composting. Do you use some of your own compost in the planting schemes? If so let us know as you could gain more marks in this category next year.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

What a great idea to plant a honeysuckle to grow across the ugly pipe at the side of the bridge.

On adjudication day there were some cardboard boxes left by the bottle banks. You mentioned your request for an additional street light at the bottle banks. Your adjudicator wonders if the banks could be moved slightly further down the hill so they are located under a street lamp and hence could be easily used in the darker winter months?

Signs at the school were quite aggressive in bright red warning not to park nearby – see comment below regarding continuity of pavement in the last section of this report. There were a number of short flag poles without flags attached to telegraph poles on the main street of Ballyorgan. These looked scruffy. There are also some wires hanging down in places from the telegraph poles.

As in all communities this week in Limerick, cable ties were left behind that were used to position the election candidate posters. Reusable cable ties are available and it is suggested that these are compulsory for future elections. Some of the pipes for the main drain on the street have been broken in places.

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

All homes were nicely presented. There was a lovely private garden in the period residence just by the Church. Also your adjudicator noted a lovely grey and yellow building at the end of the street with wooden sash windows.

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

Continuity of pavement is an issue as there is pavement leading up through the village that then stops before the school and pupils would have to walk on the road around the parked cars. This could be an action to work towards in your long-term plan.

The yellow and black signs were clean on adjudication day but keep an eye on these as some resin from trees was building up on them.

There are nice green, wrought iron field gates opposite the school. The warning sign about the dangerous ditch as you approach Ballyorgan driving towards Foxes, is a good initiative. Perhaps some reflectors could be placed the wooden fence here? There was a metal street pole by the dangerous dyke still missing a sign as you mentioned. There were some wonderful ferns growing in this ditch.