

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyfarnon**

Ref: **53**

County: **Roscommon**

Mark: **225**

Category: **B**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	25
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>222</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballyfarnon is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission this year which was most informative and very well executed; the photographs were a great help; thank you also for your five year plan - we wish you well in its implementation. Ballyfarnon is a vibrant community, deeply committed to the enhancement of its environment and, of course, to a better quality of life for the whole community. You have a large committee and enjoy help from a number of statutory bodies as well as sponsorship from the business community. The village appears to be growing and this will present the community with the challenge of retaining all that is best about Ballyfarnon whilst, at the same time, assimilating the growth and integrating new residents into the social fabric of the community. A good overall presentation, thank you.

### The Built Environment:

New infill development was noted on the entrance to the village from the Keadue road, these were nicely painted both to their roadside and rear facades. The latter is important as they are visible from the bridge and the river park. The rear facades of properties on the main street which can be seen on arriving in the village from the Mountain road are drab and uninspiring and should be painted to enable the village to be seen at its best from this approach road. It is also important that gable walls are presented to a high standard. The gable wall of the Garda station is beautifully painted. A number of gable walls in the village centre were in need of attention. The Court House looked well and the red furniture here, e.g. seating, window boxes, etc. added a nice splash of bright

colour against the dark green colour of the building itself. Ballyfarnon House B&B is an impressive building with fine architectural features. It is being maintained to a high standard, being well painted. The red and white colour scheme at the Tyre Centre premises is a nice introduction at this end of the village.

### **Landscaping:**

Trees are maturing nicely at the Josie McDermot Memorial in the village centre and this area continues to be well maintained. All green verges inside nameplates were presented to an excellent standard. The Links Memorial Garden by the river is excellent, both in concept and in design and maintenance. The spring daffodils looked beautiful as is evidenced in your photographs. Well done on the planting of rhubarb along the high bank along the Keadue road and trees at the sewage plant.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The stretch of river walk along the Feorish River is beautiful and capitalises on this wonderful natural amenity. The bird feeding table was noted in the Memorial Park. The carved timber wildlife plaque in the Links Memorial Park identifying the wildlife associated with the river is excellent. Congratulations to the school children for the bird survey and well done on the activities in Kilonan Woods Nature Trail.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control is excellent. No litter was in evidence during adjudication. Your joint winner award for tidiness in Roscommon 2004 was well deserved, the liaison with the Green School Committee is an excellent initiative. We look forward to the results of your representation to the area engineer for more and better litter bins.

### **Tidiness:**

The recycling facility looks most tidy and is both well located and attractive. We note your participation in the National Spring Clean Week and the Race Against Waste project and commend you for this. A few underdeveloped sites are untidy in appearance, no doubt these problems will be addressed upon development.

### **Residential Areas:**

Elevated gardens to dwellings on the right hand side of the road on entering Ballyfarnon from the Keadue road were admired for their overall attractiveness. The same point can be made in relation to the elevated grounds of the church. The new infill development at the Keadue end of the village looks comfortable in its surroundings and we look forward to the completion of works here, particularly in respect to the interface with public road. Encourage residents on the mountain road to grass the roadside areas to their boundary walls as this will give a more pleasing visual impact. Congratulations to the residents of O'Carolan Drive for their activities in relation to the Tidy Estate Competition. Well done on landscaping and wild flower initiatives here also.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

All approach roads and entrances to the village were nicely maintained at the time of adjudication, well done. New stretches of footpath have been noted also. The new feature lamps on the bridge have been noted and should make this very interesting at night. Other street furniture is well presented and it was good to note the wirescape free section of the main street in the village centre.

### **General Impression:**

Ballyfarnon is a vibrant busy village, however plenty of time has been designated to the care and enhancement of your home village and this has benefited all, residents, visitors and the travelling public. A fine overall presentation.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The National School with its attractive and colourful mural creates a good first impression for the visitor approaching on the Carrick on Shannon road. This road sported well cut grass verges with new trees coming along nicely. However, a few papers were noted in this location, and along the main street which was unfortunate given the village's high standing in this aspect of the competition. The rest of the village was virtually free of this scourge – although an abandoned cardboard box at the recycling area created a bad impression! The simple church was admired on its grassy bank with well-maintained grounds. The new houses in the centre of the village are nearing completion. The Courthouse and Coillte are located in an attractive building in a prominent position on the square. A broken window marred the appearance of the old ecclesiastical building adjacent to the church, and should be repaired. Monuments such as that to Josie Mc Dermott and at the Links Memorial Garden were beautifully maintained. Buildings in the village centre were generally very fresh – of note being Ballyfarnan House B & B with its vibrant display of hanging baskets and window boxes! Do ensure that plastic beer signage is removed – one appeared to have been left on a gable to a building that was no longer in use as a pub! The retention of the square traditional village nameplate sign on the Sligo side of the village is to be commended although it appeared quite flaky on the day. It was the adjudicator's first time to visit the charming village of Ballyfarnon, and it was a pleasure to do so on Second Adjudication Day! Well done to all concerned for the obvious hard work put in throughout the year to maintain the village to the highest of standards!