Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre:	**Bealnamulla**	Ref:	**311**
County:	**Roscommon**	Mark:	**207**
Category:	**A**	Date(s):	**18/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	26
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	14
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	**400**	**207**

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Bealnamulla to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition and it is good to have you back as a valued entry in this year's Tidy towns Competition. It is noted that your Committee now just has two members and it is important that the community would appreciate the value of the Tidy Towns concept and offer additional assistance to your small committee. Have you considered calling a Tidy Towns meeting perhaps under the auspices of a local organisation such as IFA, Macra na Feirme or ICA? This might be a good way of getting members of the community together to discuss Tidy Towns. Having held a community meeting and hopefully recruited a few new committee members the next action is to consider the drafting of a simple Tidy towns Plan for the period 2008 -2010. This basic Plan should indicate the projects that you would like to undertake each year for the there year period. You might try and consult with the Roscommon County Council while your are drafting this document to get their ideas for consideration. When you have this Plan in place you will probably find it easier to get the support of the appropriate organisations and agencies. The large scale new developments have been visited by the adjudicator and it was interesting to read that about 58% of the properties in the village are rented. Do make sure that Bealnamulla is an entry for 2008. You are an important part of the Tidy Towns Competition and your involvement is important to us. For next year you might include a simple map of the village. Normally the adjudication areas are between the 50 KPH signs or where they do not exist a distance of 1 km all around the village.

The Built Environment:

Again this year your School was excellently presented but the repainting of the gates at the entrance might be considered for next year, It is great that children are going to school in a building that is so well presented in terms of colour scheme. The large corrugated iron building opposite the Taghmaconnell road would be improved if the roof was painted a dark green to blend it more into the landscape. The attractive Ivy covered frontage of the Mills Bar is a feature of Bealnamulla that should be retained.

Landscaping:

Good landscaping is a strong feature of Bealnamulla. At the School entrance the landscaping at the car park caught the eye immediately. However on this approach road the Bealnamulla entrance stone text was a little obscured by the landscaping. The two village name stone are an attractive feature of the village. The landscaping on the Athlone side of the village with the attractive circular stone tree guards looked quite well but grass here will need cutting shortly. Some verge damage was evident here. The provision of kerbs stones along this side of the road may be a possibility but they can look quite out of place in a rural village. This is an issue that is best discussed with the Local County Council Engineer with whom you should try and meet following the community meeting suggested above.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

In terms of this category of the Tidy Towns Competition it is suggested that a wildlife Survey of the Bealnamulla area is required. This is a project that might be undertaken by some of the school children under the guidance of a teacher with an interest in this area. The objective of the survey is to find out what wildlife there is in the area in terms of birds, fish, flowers, animals and insects. With this information you can then begin to think of ways to make the village more attractive to wildlife in terms of feeding and shelter.

Litter Control:

Considering the volume of traffic through the village litter control on adjudication day was quite good. However litter was noted on some of the landscaped areas and in Millrace estate.

Waste Minimisation:

Based on the Entry Form no work appears to be underway in terms of waste minimisation. Following the suggested community meeting the possibilities for action might be discussed by your committee.

This is a new category in the Tidy Towns Competition first introduced in 2006. The purpose of this new category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Marks can be gained for the promotion of best practice. This can include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean up events. The organising of a Workshop on waste minimisation in your community is another initiative that you might consider. This could be held on a waste minimisation community awareness day as part of a series of local initiatives. Your local school should also be involved with their own waste minimisation projects. In regard to waste minimisation it is important to remember that quite small actions can sometimes have a significant waste reduction impact.

Tidiness:

A few untidy areas were noted in the village and the rear of the Texaco property would be improved if this area could be screened from public view. To the side of this property some tidying is also recommended. The low limestone wall to the front of the Texaco property is a good feature of the village and this echoes the other fine stone walls in Bealnamulla. On the road to the river the large open space with the piles of timber logs needs some attention in terms of tidying. Just beyond this at the river bridge the four farm gates would be improved if painted. At the Soccer Club property the roadside iron railings should be painted.

Residential Areas:

The large house opposite Texaco is attractively presented and good landscaping was noted here. On the road towards the river well presented private houses were noted and the landscaping and young trees here are attractive. In this area the high roadside grass at the concrete post and rail fencing needs to be cut. The various housing estates in Bealnamulla were visited on adjudication day. Excellent landscaping and grass areas were noted at Forest Mills. At the nearby Barley Fields estate it is recommended that the long concreted block wall be plastered and painted. The central grass area here looked well and like all other grass areas needs frequent cutting at this time of the year. Weed growth at kerbs was noted in a number of estates. In some cases these weeds were dead and may have been sprayed recently. At Millcross Road some good low level landscaping at individual houses added to the overall presentation of the area. Attractive young Ash Trees at the Waterville estate will look well as they begin to mature. The good limestone stone walls and landscaping at the entrance to Monksfield immediately caught the eye and this is the sort of standard that should be encouraged with most new developments. At Millrace estate most of the timber fencing would be improved if painted or varnished using outdoor products.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

With the exception of the main road little work appears to have been carried out on any of the approach roads. High grass on the verges needs to be cut and hedges trimmed. This is really a task for the County Council.

The high and very long limestone stone wall on the Athlone side of the village is an outstanding feature of Bealnamulla. Indeed your many stone walls are a signature feature of the village. Daisies feature on some approach roads and where possible these should be preserved from year to year as a village feature. some road surfaces need attention in terms of pothole filling and resurfacing is required in other areas.

General Impression:

The adjudicator was delighted to have the opportunity of visiting Bealnamulla for the first time. Despite the high level of new development the village still seems to retain some of obvious earlier character. The development of active support for the Tidy Towns Committee is most important if the village is to face future development challenges. Good luck with your important work for Tidy Towns in 2008.