

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinamore** Ref: **422**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **281**
Category: **C** Date(s): **21/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	43	44
The Built Environment	50	36	36
Landscaping	50	41	42
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	29	30
Litter Control	50	32	33
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	9	9
Tidiness	30	14	14
Residential Areas	40	29	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36	37
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	276	281

Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Ballinamore to the 2013 TidyTowns Competition and your participation is important to the competition. Thank you for the completed entry form, back up documentation and especially for the excellent maps which were most helpful. Your core committee of fifteen is quite large by national standards and that is most positive. The TidyTowns movement seems to be deeply embedded in the Ballinamore community and you enjoy great local support. Your strong and active links with the various schools in Ballinamore are commended. The 5 Year Plan was read with great interest and this is a clean and imaginative document. The press coverage that you receive for your work is impressive.

The Built Environment:

Work seemed to be progressing well on the new School when the area was visited. Hopefully the Courthouse will find a new use that will give an additional lease of life to this key building. Well done on your representation at various Courses and these can be so valuable as long as the lessons learnt can be applied back in Ballinamore. The Moorings was visited and this is indeed well presented and a most attractive peaceful area. The two stone buildings here fit well with the landscape though the interior of the male toilets needed maintenance. Two blank information panels were noted at the waterside here. On Church Road at Lots 'A' Tots the low road boundary wall needed to be painted. The two public Car Parks off Main Street were visited and found to be well presented. The colour, signage and hanging baskets were admired at The Nature Trail. Across the road from the fountain at the Railway Road / Terrace junction the small white low building at the petrol pump would be improved if repainted. The sign pole also needed to be painted together with the window bars. Closed properties were noted on Main Street and cosmetic work can often bring great visual results at low cost. At the County Library the brave colour used here for the Main Street and Church Street elevations was admired – it works very well. The use of the Irish language on signage is required under present legislation and this should be encouraged where appropriate. On signage the Irish language must have the primary role.

Landscaping:

Congratulations on your great success in the 2012 Floral Pride Competition. New Beech tree planting was noted from the map and those along the Embankment were visited among other locations. New landscaping at the Locaboat Marine is really impressive and good colour choices work well together here. The facility was very tidy and neatly presented. The fountain area with the trees was visited and greatly admired; the sound of the water

adds much to this attractive area. Along Main Street hanging baskets and window boxes were admired and especially those at The Poor Scholar. The red timberwork here works well with the natural stone. Colourful planting at the Monument was visited. Have you considered moving to year round planting? Around Ballinamore a number of small casual landscaped areas caught the eye and these add much to the visual appeal of the town. Work on reviving old flower beds was noted in several locations and the end results are good. The Butterfly Garden at An Cuan along the canal is a great wildlife addition to the area.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As wildlife area the Moorings was enjoyed together with the information panel about the Canal Bank Walk. What appeared to be new wildlife signage was seen in various areas and thank you for including the local bird list; what a large variety of birdlife there is in Ballinamore. The new Canal Bank Walk is an interesting one and was enjoyed by your adjudicator. At the walk entrance at the Monument consider painting the gates perhaps red or black or blue. At the Basin the Canal Bank Walk information has collapsed into the bottom section of the frame. Your adjudicator was pleased to read of your awareness of the legal situation in regard to hedge cutting at certain times of the year. The development of the two new walks is welcomed as are the new nesting boxes. What results came out of the Frog Survey for Ballinamore? The new nature walk on the road to the sewerage works is welcomed.

Litter Control:

The weekly litter picks have produced a town that demonstrated good litter control on the day of the visit both in the centre of Ballinamore and on approach roads all of which were visited. You have now taken over work for the Bring Centre which was visited and found to be litter free and quite tidy. Did you get many volunteers out for the 5th Annual Spring Clean? The colouring competition with a litter theme for the Schools was a good initiative and this helps to support your close links with the youth of the town. The Tesco site was visited where the Boys School did the clean up and it has obviously improved but is still a problem area. The Litter Plan was read and this is a clean and comprehensive litter control guide for the future. Along Main Street a mild scattering of litter was noted in several locations but the situation was not serious.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

Your campaign to highlight waste reduction in Ballinamore is warmly welcomed as is the metal collection. For the year ahead do continue to give further attention to the elimination / reduction of waste in Ballinamore. A local Survey may be helpful. The document on this issued with your entry form by the Tidy Towns Unit has many excellent suggestions for consideration by your committee.

Tidiness:

The cobble lock paving at the Telephone Box at the Railway Road / Terrace junction has a weed problem that needed attention. Some kerb weed was evident at the Business and Technology Park. A rather wild open space at the bottom of Cannaboe Street could be improved. A little further along on the left the problem of the crane persists. On Tully Road the grass on the low roadside bank had been cut but not removed. Can anything be done about painting the green corrugated iron shed visible from the Killymooden Road? Timber fencing at the Basin needed to be treated. The display of retail goods on the pavement on Main Street was seen and this practise should be discouraged whenever possible. Across from The Cultural Quarter weed growth in the kerb joints approaching the car park needed attention. Work on clearing paths mentioned last year is acknowledged as is the power hosing of cut stone walls. Hopefully no plant life was affected. Litter bins and public seating was generally clean and well maintained. Across from the Moorings the area at the large white steel container was rather untidy.

Residential Areas:

Your support to estates that need your help from time is noted from your entry documentation as are the various Competitions some of which impact on estate presentation. An Cuan was visited and found to be quite tidy and some good private landscaping was admired along Church Street. Along Railway Terrace some road boundary walls needed to be painted. The work on the new path along here was examined. A well maintained grass area at Ros Og was admired together with some good planting. The road surface at the entrance to Gleann Dara is in very poor condition and urgent resurfacing is necessary. Grass areas here needed to be cut. Some very well presented properties along Tully Road caught the eye.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

New bilingual signage was seen in several places and is welcomed. Your policy of leaving grass strips uncut in support of wildlife was seen on several roads and represents best practice. The Carrick-On-Shannon approach is highly impressive with the fine mature trees and well maintained wide grass verge areas. However some grass area on the right that had been cut still had the cut grass in place. The same problem was noted along Sean Mac Diarmada Road. The start of Fohera Road was very poorly presented and did not seem to have received any recent attention. Along Railway Road very good grass areas caught the eye at the Playground.

General Impression:

Your adjudicator had not visited Ballinamore for several years and good progress is being made by your hard

working committee and the Ballinamore community. Good luck in the year ahead and we look forward to returning to you in 2014.