

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinamore** Ref: **422**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **291**
Category: **C** Date(s): **06/06/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	44
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	43
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	37
TOTAL MARK	450	291

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Ballinamore is welcomed to the 2014 Tidy Towns Competition. Many thanks for the completed entry form and annotated map. Thank you also for the voluminous documentation supplied in the red folder. Your entry form makes clear that you are a very energetic and active group. We note the town is twinned with Plouezec in Brittany. In common with many towns you have a substantial number of houses awaiting occupiers and business premises not currently gainfully engaged.

The Lola Boat Holiday Centre is an excellent presentation maintained to the highest standard. We admired the lettering on Lawrence Lounge Bar although outside the area somewhat. We admire greatly the well painted cottages some miles out on the Ennis Road. Securing widespread distribution of the adjudicators report is an excellent first stop in securing involvement. Stating an annual 'Spring Clean-up' is an ideal method of ensuring all are acquainted with your activities.

It is pleasant to see some phone boxes surviving, an increasingly rare item of street furniture.

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

Major building programmes have taken place during the last few years. The new Secondary School, Hospital and the Scout Den only open last month. The Lolly Mum Pre and After school service are making good use of the former national school. The Town Hall was freshly painted and the office of Leitrim Money Advice and Budgeting Service was very well presented. The Church of Ireland was neat and orderly, we admired its robust wrought iron gates painted in black with gold painted headers while St. Patrick's Catholic Church was celebrating 50 years services to the community. The Old Court House continues as a difficulty and hopefully some appropriate present day use for it too will immerse in time. The Library was well painted albeit in somewhat sombre colours. The Garda Station would benefit from its doors and windows being painted before next year's competition. Commercially the Supervalu in its high visibility location was very well presented as was Lyric Snooker and Pool premises. The Gruaige Hair Saloon in Church Street looked well and the Poor Scholar Pub was brightly painted. The Standing Stone Hotel was colourful. Hamill's Town Guesthouse, grounds and building were well presented. Bobby Joe's pub caught the eye. With the demise of the old crane the well presented hording around the unused retail units have provided a favourable visual outcome.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Ballinamore has a number of significant set pieces, landscaping developments together with a delightful and varied range of small incidental locations. All are being maintained to a high order and compliments to all involved. The Canal Bank Walk or more correctly walks are a delight while the Railway Monument at St. Felim's College was most

interesting. The seat to commemorate John McGahern the writer was enhanced by the nearby fountain. The Headquarters of the Cavan Leitrim Railway was a well presented reminder of former days. The fine displays on the opposite side of this central square certainly enhanced the area which featured well set out parking bays.

The decision to refocus your planting policy in favour of year round perennial planting rather than summer bedding plants is applauded. Very extensive planting and tree planting before March this year will increasingly bear fruit (no pun intended) with each passing year. The Wildflower Garden, likely to attract butterflies, is an excellent use of the former waste ground on the Link Road opposite Tesco.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádurtha:

Of its nature this is one of a few categories where a longer term approach is required. The two pronged objectives are to enhance bird and wild life in reality while encouraging a wider interest and appreciation for this aspect of surrounding nature among the population generally. Signage drawing attention to the many and varied opportunities to enjoy the wildlife were observed. We liked the 'Bug Hotel' at the school Bhríde Naofa. The July (2013) 'Bat Walk' was worthwhile and well done on your plans to have this becoming an annual event. The 'Bio-Diversity Walk' along the Canal Bank Walk is also an excellent method of raising awareness of the value and significance of bird and wildlife. Exhibitions on this theme as organised with the Scout Unit are also positive steps. The availability of two volunteers involved in Bird Watch Leitrim helps to create an additional resource in terms of information and enthusiasm about birdlife.

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

Congratulations to Our Lady of Fatima School on securing their Green Flag. The present flag itself could with advantage be replaced as it has become quiet tired looking. Drawing attention to the water waste is an excellent topic to discuss with the national and secondary school during the liaison officers visit. The household waste survey undertaken via the schools, business and SuperValu Store was interesting. An additional question relating to the availability to the household of a compost device might be considered next time. We note 150 survey sheets were handed out. What was the return?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

It is difficult to suggest how best to deal with the three now abandoned premises in High Street. One can only hope for an early sale which will in time improve matters. Your 'Adopt a Road' scheme is an excellent initiative which very largely is enhancing matters. Some minor amounts of traffic spoil were noted on the side of some roads. Securing the involvement of commercial premise is a constant difficulty but with gentle perseverance improvements will surely follow. The difficulties where domestic rubbish is disposed in general litter bins is widespread and the actions you have taken are probable the most effective response. The erecting of signs highlighting the anti-social nature of dog fouling has been found very largely to be effective. There still remains a residual minor group who will persist in this distasteful practice. Surprisingly the sign providing details and directions to the Canal Walk is still lying towards the base of its display case. This was commented on in last year's adjudicators report.

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

The houses in Collie Heights are not all as yet occupied. Lahard House Estate looked very well on the day of adjudication. We admired many of the houses on Brigid's Street and along Railway Road. Your policy of holding a number of competitions, 'Best Kept House & Garden', 'Best Kept Business Premises' and 'Best Kept Road' is an ideal strategy to generate a positive response from the wider community.

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

We welcomed the sign, noted on all approach roads, urging motorist to 'Make it a Rule and Bring Home your own Litter'. This is a timely reminder and hopefully is having an effect. The village nameplates with flowerbeds below were admired on many approach roads. Many streets were very well swept and looking well with no weeds, spoil or grass outside the curbs. Fine new pavement on Enniskillen Road has left a gap between it and the road surface proper. This gap will, unless receiving attention will become a haven for litter and weeds over time. The maintaining of the verges, always having regards to for wildlife and insects are well commended. A great deal of work is involved in this maintenance and your efforts in this regard are greatly appreciated.