

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinamore** Ref: **422**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **296**
Category: **C** Date(s): **14/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	44	45
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	35	36
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	43	43
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30	31
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	23	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	37	38
TOTAL MARK	450	291	296

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

You are very welcome to the SuperValu TidyTowns competition and we acknowledge the great work that was done by the TidyTowns people down through the years. This work makes Ireland beautiful. There is good commitment shown by the six committee members assisted by the wider group of fifteen helpers notably in handing out sixty copies of adjudicator reports. Plenty meetings are being held to monitor progress and plan ahead and it is pleasing to find that some new members are helping you out. You are making good use of the agencies and bodies plus local businesses. The community is well informed on your activities which is very important. Relationships you have with the schools are noted and will reap rewards in the years to come. It is satisfying for us to find that the competition is appreciated by the people and helps to make your place a better and safer place to live in. I admired the good quality posters and you have some top artists in the making. Thank you for the plan and map of Ballinamore. This is a good approach to the competition.

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

The built environment is interesting with most places presented in a responsible manner, neat and tidy. Some locations that impressed were The McGirl Monument, it is an outstanding feature in Ballinamore. The impressive SuperValu stores stand out. The Four Seasons is well presented and AIB was bright and cheerful as was Lawrences. St Patrick's church is maintained in great condition with a showing of attractive shrubs. There are plenty other shops, offices and bars in great condition.

I felt that the addition of a few more trees could benefit the main streets. Ballinamore Primary care centre stands out with nice landscaping, this facility is outstanding. The schools are all maintained to a high standard. It is pleasing to see the beautiful stone seat in memory of a great man John McGahern. The railway monument reminds us of a bygone day in Ballinamore. I loved the small children's playground. Church of Ireland is in splendid condition surrounded by an impressive stone wall. The Community School is constructed to the highest standards and looks supreme. Ballinamore GAA complex is well presented and has a lovely stand for the spectators, it could be further adorned with the addition of a few creeping shrubs against the roadside wall.

This town is most suitable for the provision of a heritage trail, and I saw you have plans for this.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Coming from Carrick on Shannon there is a lovely entrance to the village with tree lined grass margins for a long distance. At one place I saw where there was a weed that is very difficult to control namely mare's tail, and I advise you to get assistance with the removal of it. You have a good attitude to the other invasive species with photographs highlighting their existence. The fountain is very nice and there is good planting at the back of it. Lovely cut-stone shrubberies and flower containers are admired.

We enjoyed the little park alongside the plaque that was unveiled by the then Taoiseach Charles Haughey. This is a love place to sit and enjoy the Waterside. There is wonderful landscaping up by the children's playground. We salute the work being done in the Men's Shed producing flower boxes etc. There is a great stock of young and mature trees in lots of areas.

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

The Bat Walk in July and the bio diversity walk along the canal at Easter were no doubt enjoyable and educational and I commend you for organising them. Working as you are with the schools is the way forward. It is good to find that the Girls School is not left behind.

You are fortunate to have the two committee members involved in Leitrim Birdwatch imparting of their knowledge at your meetings and other events.

At a school we saw that they have good information on the wildlife on a notice board. At another school we saw the bird boxes, and it could be interesting to see if the birds are really using the boxes as it takes a while for them to actually use these boxes. We also admired the small bug hotel there.

The Canal bank walk is a nice place and we enjoyed a stroll there listening to many birds singing in the trees, and nice views of the boats passing by were enjoyed. A new notice board on wildlife was left on the ground in readiness for putting it in its final position. Your wildflower garden near Tesco is a great facility for the many birds and bees that were enjoying the surroundings.

The leaflet "Conserving and Enhancing Wildlife in Towns and Villages" is most interesting and contains lots of useful information.

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

We salute the children for the successes that they have achieved in the green flag competitions. This now means that the teachers, pupils and parents have a much better understanding of the local environment and the best ways to maintain and improve it. I liked the Ballinamore PPS GUM WRAP Song. I read the results of your waste survey and found them interesting. It is good to keep ourselves up to date with the best way to treat food waste and we see you attended a workshop in Mohill and another session in the Bush Hotel. You have listed some other useful initiatives and we can clearly see you have a professional approach to Sustainable Waste and Resource Management. Well done for the attention given to composting. The bring bank is well signposted out near the GAA pitch, and was in spotless condition.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The pictures tell their own stories of all the litter that was collected, and they show an energetic group outside SuperValu. Two trailers of rubbish collected, in all 49 bags -very good, and it is a responsible action plan to carry out the litter survey to see where more attention could be given to specific areas.

The control of litter over such a large area is a notable achievement, and we acknowledge the effort put in, well done. Overall the town of Ballinamore was neat and orderly, and well kept green open spaces made for a wonderful freshness. We look forward to the ground opposite Tesco being levelled off and returned to grass. I was pleased to see the dog fouling notices in places and the dog owners appear to be more responsible as it was not a problem on my way around your lovely town. The signpost for Cloone is faded and looked unsightly, and perhaps you could bring this to the attention of the County Council engineer

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

The holding of "Best Kept Road", Best Kept House and Garden" and Best Kept Business Premises" are good initiatives and gives the people an incentive to do a bit better with their property and local area. There are nice apartments down by the Canal, but they do not seem to be occupied. Housing estates visited are well presented. There are some superb town houses in Ballinamore that were nicely decorated. On the approach roads there are some splendid houses with great lawns, flowers, shrubs and some attractive trees.

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

I loved that little stone bridge near the McGirl monument. The roads are in good condition with good signage, except the sign for Cloone. There is a lovely little road running out by the side of the canal, and we went into a nice parking area with good landscaping and splendid public toilets. Information is available on a notice board about cycle and walking routes. We travelled out the Killeshandra road where the footpaths are excellent. There are nice loop walks, one circling the town centre going up Main Street and High Street and going down Cannaboe Street back to the monument, or one could take the shorter route in by St Bridgits Street.

It was a pleasure to visit this very nice location and I plan to return soon again. I was delighted to spend some time amongst your people, who were most friendly on the streets and in the shops. You are doing well in these recessionary times, and I was most impressed with the attention paid to the children in many ways.

Concluding Remarks:

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