

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinamore** Ref: **422**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **300**
Category: **C** Date(s): **14/06/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	45	46
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	36	36
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	43	44
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	31	32
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	23	24
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	38	38
TOTAL MARK	450	296	300

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Ballinamore Tidy Towns is indeed welcome to the 2016 competition. We were delighted to see that you have your own website. The committee seems a little small, at 6, for a town of Ballinamore's size. You would appear to have a good working relationship with the local statutory bodies and local businesses. We were pleased to hear that the local scouts and Foroige assist in your clean ups. The length of time you have participated in the competition shows a high level of commitment. From your replies on your entry form you certainly would appear to have a high level of commitment from the local community for your work.

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

The commercial premises of the town generally looked fine on adjudication day. Do discourage the use of plastic signage and encourage their replacement with ones of a more traditional timber Variety. The large modern church in its prominent location on High Street looked very well although some weeds were evident at its entrance area. The new HSE Primary Care building looked extremely smart. We were pleased to hear the old HSE clinic has been taken over by the Angling and Tourism group. It is positive to see buildings being reused and not just abandoned. The Genealogy Centre is located in the old courthouse which is in an attractive building on High Street. The windows appeared to have been boarded up at the rear of the building when viewed from the car park adjacent to the Health Food shop. There seem to be a large number of schools in the town and these were all well presented. The relatively new Tesco development appears to be rather stained to its frontage visible from the main road and the open space opposite appeared rather overgrown on the day. Presumably this means that the work mentioned by you in your application form had not yet been completed-no crane was visible and the work to the hoardings did not appear to have taken place nor the landscaping. Do discourage plastic signage on shopfront and encourage its replacement with ones of a more traditional timber variety. There is a wealth of architectural and historical heritage evident in the town and the town walking guide is most interesting. The National School looked well although its boundary wall will need a repaint before next year's competition. The old National School was also very attractively presented. Don't forget outbuildings when considering presentation on the main streets of the town- a number of these looked a little neglected on the day. The rusty roof to a building near the fountain looked unfortunate. Cumiskey's has some attractive traditional lettering and signage. There is a good use of the Irish language throughout. The modern library was admired. The modern tourist office beside the church also looked very well. The cheerful mural at the playgroup will need repainting before next year's competition

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

You have quite correctly identified perennial planting as being important. The town should look well year-round and not just when the flowers are in bloom! New planting at the Primary Care unit incorporating a wildlife area, new

orchard and butterfly area is a good idea. The planting of honeysuckle, raspberries, gooseberry trees and crabapple trees is commendable. Congratulations on your participation and prize-winning in Leitrim County Council Floral Pride competition. You are fortunate to have the RSS workers maintain your green areas-their help must be invaluable. The unusual planters in the vicinity of the national school were admired. The John Joe Mc Girl monument was well presented and appears to be quite new. The fountain and its vicinity was well maintained. The planters created from timber pallets were well made and quite unusual.

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

The bat walk sounds very interesting and informative, as does the biodiversity walk in conjunction with Waterways Ireland alongside the Canal. Your work with the youth of the town such as local schools is a commendable as is your work with the scouts in order to highlight the habitats of small birds and mammals in the area. The talk in relation to the curlews sounded very interesting also, as is your work and involvement with the Leitrim Birdwatch group. Good luck with your endeavours regarding the ecological school talks – hopefully these will be forthcoming in the not too distant future. The use of the school's polytunnels is a good idea. You would appear to have a good working relationship with waterways Ireland. The hHedgerow campaign in conjunction with the hedgerow laying expert along the Canal Bank Walk sounds like a very worthwhile one

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

Your waste survey in the schools and local businesses sounded very worthwhile. Congratulations on your participation in the Annual Spring Clean-it sounded very successful. The WEEE event sounded most interesting. The use of the liaison officer with the schools in relation to water waste, battery recycling and the visit to Mohill's Amenity Site sounded very interesting. Good luck with your effort to obtain an electric car charging point. The work done by the Men's Shed Group in relation to collecting wood from local householders for flower boxes is commendable. You would appear to have a good relationship with Leitrim County Council's Environmental Officer – hopefully this will become even stronger in the future.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

There was evidence of grubby directional signage on High Street on adjudication day. We were pleased to hear that the RSS and TUS workers conduct weekly litter pick ups. Do you regard this as sufficient? Perhaps it should be more frequent given the size of the town. Good luck with your work in relation to dog fouling problems on pavements. Hopefully the County Council signs and posters will bear fruit. Congratulations on your participation in Leitrim's Litter Management Plan. The poster competition for schools are a good idea as it is never too early to promote and foster an interest and concern in the environment. Discourage flyposting and advertising hoardings as these can give approach roads a rather cluttered appearance. The railings at the bridge could be repainted before next year's competition. Litter picking was evident on the day. Some staining was evident to the walls of the car park area opposite the shops which included the health food shop. Besides this, the car park was very well maintained and presented.

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

The Best Kept Road, Best Kept House and Garden and the Best Kept Business Premises competitions are all good ideas and have proved successful in other centres in the past. We were pleased to hear that all the estates have names – some bilingual. The train shaped flower boxes are very clever and unique. The attractive houses and gardens on the Enniskillen road on their raised grassy banks were greatly admired.

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

We were pleased to hear that you leave a metre of verge for wildlife and insects. Attractive traditional signage on approach roads makes a strong impression. Planting by the nameplates makes a colourful impression. The overhanging mature trees on the Fenagh approach make for an attractive approach to the town. Some weed control was required at kerbside. There was also some evidence of litter on this road. This forms a long lead into the village with some beautiful mature overhanging trees although the verges seemed a little overgrown. It is important that verges look intentionally assigned for wildlife rather than just looking unkept-it's a balancing exercise. The encouragement of hedging for biodiversity and wildlife is most commendable. Some of the signage along approach roads appeared rather grubby on the day. There are many laneways off the main streets of the town and they should be carefully considered when looking at overall presentation in this category. The modern street furniture near the fountain was admired. The Enniskillen road was very well maintained.

Concluding Remarks:

It was a pleasure to visit Ballinamore for the first time. Congratulations on your active participation in the competition for the last 30 years. There seems to be a good level of enthusiasm for the various categories involved by the local community and committee.