

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Balray** Ref: **1383**
County: **Louth** Mark: **231**
Category: **B** Date(s): **17/06/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	35	35
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	31	31
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	25	26
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	24	24
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	5	6
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	48	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	30
TOTAL MARK	450	226	231

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Balray is very welcome to the 2015 Supervalu Tidy Towns competition.

Thank you for the completed application and sketch map of this famous village.

The committee of 6 is ample to look after the Tidy Towns duties in the village.

One realises that it can be difficult for a committee to get people mobilised for Tidy Towns in a population that is primarily of an older vintage and that does not seem to have a large youth population.

This coupled with the fact that the village has a somewhat transient population because of the popularity of the Golf Cub makes the task a little bit more onerous.

That said it is important, as pointed out in last year's report, to try and put together a simple and achievable work plan for a 3 year period.

Foster good links with Louth County Council and Louth Leader.

It would be worthwhile to engage with Louth Tidy Towns Together to get your presence on its website and to avail of advice from the coordinator and to share ideas with other centres.

Being involved in this county wide group may encourage some of the younger population of the area to become involved and maybe set up a junior section in the village.

Thank you for your positive comments on the competition and its contribution to the community

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

The adjudicator visited the three areas of work completed since last year and well done on this work as it has contributed greatly to the village in an overall context.

Theses might be small improvements to a larger community but when a village is small like Balray such improvements are very significant.

The adjudicator was impressed with the stone in honour of the late great lady golfer Philomena Garvey.

The Louth County Golf Club, which has produced some many greats like the lady mentioned, was well maintained and in the process of further upgrading.

The mural at the "Broken Arrow" wall was beginning to fade and maybe the original artist might be invited back and possibly do an update featuring caricatures of a few of your greats such as Des Smyth and the previously mentioned Phil Garvey

On speaking with people in other parts of Louth this is seen as a feature of the Village.

The Grotto was good and clean but maybe needs a little by way of colourful annuals something this adjudicator associates with grottos.

The 19th Hole is the local hostelry and it was in good condition but as in the last comment the shrub container outside the door looked to be overgrown and the seating needed to be treated with wood preservative.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The standard of landscaping was very acceptable.

The large number of green spaces were managed well but there certainly is an opportunity to add a few more planters.

This would be by way of sustainable planting of shrubs complemented by more colourful annuals to show of the village to the maximum especially in the summer season.

The arrangements on the green opposite the 19th Hole were admired and these should be replicated in other parts of the village.

If you get involved in putting together a 3 year plan this a category that should be a priority.

In the interim consult with both the County Council and indeed the Louth County Golf Club to see what the planting needs of the village are.

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

The Terns Protection Scheme Information Board at the beach entrance gives an insight to this rare bird and its habitats.

It is an interesting and informative board as it gives a background and poses the question whether the beach should be closed during nesting season.

If the committee was to include a wildlife project in any future plan would suggest that it consult with the county wildlife ranger and indeed Bird Watch Ireland to see if another specific board, that would encompass all birds associated with the area, could be designed and made.

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

This is a category that one could pick up additional points that would contribute to the overall mark of the village in the competition.

The emphasis is now on waste prevention and the committee should consult. www.localprevention.ie for ideas on project related waste prevention and it should also have a look at the EPA website to get an update on the status of the National Strategy for the Prevention of Waste.

Do consult with the county environmental officer to find out if there are any relevant information nights in the pipeline during the coming autumn.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The ever reliable TUS scheme provides you with support in the form of workers that help keep the village litter free and tidy in a general sense.

On the adjudication, except for a few plastic bottles, the village was free of litter so the fruit of your good work is paying off.

The beach area was clean also but I suppose that may change somewhat when the summer season gets into full swing.

There are sufficient bins around the village but these may be augmented for the "seaside season".

The area around the 19th Hole was well kept and free of barrels or clutter that sometimes one sees at the side of public houses.

Overall the standard was very good.

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

An interesting comment on the Haven and maybe the committee should engage in positive dialogue with the owners, outline your objectives for Baltray and its involvement in the Tidy Towns Competition.

Appeal to their better nature and then they might see things in a different light.

As was stated in last year's report there's an eclectic mix of properties and most were very well maintained and some in the throes of being refurbished.

It looked as if some of the properties viewed were of the summer house variety so that can cause other issues as the owners are temporary residents.

Some other similar coastal villages have dealt with this in a positive way.

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

The main entrance in to the village was very acceptable and well presented.

Some of the side internal roads were in poor condition and the road down to the beach was in an appalling and dangerous state.

One cannot understand why Louth County Council hasn't addressed this as it is only going to get worse with the onset of heavy seasonal traffic.

Baltray is a village that has potential to do even better in the competition and your comments re lack of members has been noted.

The Village has the added advantage of being a well known coastal habitat for all forms of wildlife.

It is of course famous for its links golf course and for producing so many well known names in the sport.

Hopefully the committee will expand in the next few years and that this will help Baltray to improve its standing in the competition.

You are wished well in the future.

Concluding Remarks: