

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballynacally**

Ref: **530**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **227**

Category: **B**

Date: **12/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	37
The Built Environment	40	31	29
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	18	16
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	227	216

Overall Developmental Approach:

We note that your Committee has now grown to seventeen and the results of this additional support are to be seen around the village. The well completed entry form and excellent sketch map were very informative and helpful on the day. Thank you also for copy of the Plan for Ballynacally which you launched during the year and from which we quote your excellent mission statement " Actively support the local community to organise and develop their capacity to effectively respond to identified needs and problems, and to promote a spirit of community service in working for the common good where every voice is heard". The Strategies as set out in the Plan from 1 -13 are all relevant and we wish you well with implementation of same in the years ahead. Even though there will be some deviations from the Plan, which happened this year, your overall targets have been identified and this will focus your efforts for the future.

The Built Environment:

Most business premises in the village were looking well and contributing to the Tidy Towns effort. The derelict building in the centre of the village is well disguised but a long term solution needs to be found for this problem in the future. The Post Office building needed some attention and the plastic signage here is out of character with the rest of the village. The School presented a neat and tidy appearance. It was good to note painting work taking place at a premises in the village during our visit. There are a great many stone walls on the approach roads and in the village of Ballynacally and these were all looking well on the day of adjudication (one was being rebuilt opposite the Post

Office).

Whilst there was no great evidence of ivy on these walls at present it would be important that this situation would not be allowed to occur in the future.

Landscaping:

As well as the painting and wall building work mentioned, people were also watering the plant containers and gardening in the village which indicates a good community spirit. This was also obvious through the landscaping on the approach roads; at the shrine; in the fairgreen and throughout the village where all planting was well maintained and weed free. New tree planting was also noted which will leave a legacy for future generations. The metal poles/brackets used for hanging baskets are nicely designed. In the case of containers for flowers, stone, wood or metal is preferable to plastic. Your two main projects for 2004 - the provision of a garden at one of the entrances to the village and also the "Rose lovers bench" riverside development were viewed and admired. However, in the case of the Rose lovers bench area, the unattractive heavy metal fencing used here spoils this amenity. In the same way, the type of metal fencing used on the riverside pathway to St Martin's Blessed Well and the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto also rather spoils this area, which is a pity as providing access to these religious sites is very worthwhile. We note that you plan to undertake a general clean up of the river in the future.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

All the planting in and around the village contributes under this category and we note that you plan to encourage bird life by the river. Any future planting could also be geared to providing food for birds in the winter months.

Litter Control:

There was no litter to be seen in Ballynacally on the day - well done to all concerned. The strategic placing of litter bins was noted and also the recycling containers, discreetly positioned at the Fairgreen.

Tidiness:

The approaches and the village mostly looked neat and tidy with kerbs weed free throughout.

Residential Areas:

Private houses in and around the village were well maintained, some with very attractive gardens. One of the houses at the Council Estate has been painted yellow. Could this trend continue with the other houses blending in to provide a colour statement in that part of the village?

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main road surface was good but road verges were poor in a number of places. Signage was mostly well maintained throughout.

General Impression:

There is a vibrant community spirit in Ballynacally which augurs well for the future. We look forward to seeing you progress in the years ahead.

