

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballynacally** Ref: **59**
County: **Clare** Mark: **250**
Category: **B** Date(s): **27/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	250

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the very comprehensive application, excellent sketch map and copy of published strategic plan World of Possibilities that was endorsed by well-known personalities. It is noted also that the Village has an excellent and up to date web presence.

The involvement with the Clare County Council and agencies such as FAS, Shannon Development and Clare Leader has been beneficial to the Community. This coupled with the support of other local organisations has helped in producing evenness in the presentation of your entry in this year's competition.

And as you rightly stated in your application the competition has raised awareness of "Pride in ones Place". This very evident in the case of Ballynacally as it was looking splendid on the evening of adjudication with some local people engaged in various forms of landscaping and tidying up. Long may this type of effort continue.

The Built Environment:

Each village has its own uniqueness and heritage that sets its apart from its neighbours. Ballynacally has its own rich history that makes it unique.

To retain this uniqueness in an era of accelerated infrastructural change and in deed to embrace that change to benefit of ones community is the key.

Ballynacally has succeeded in doing this and this is very much reflected in the Built Environment in the village as the traditional features not alone been retained but enhanced in a modern way – if such a description is apt.

The excellent School was very much admired and it blends in seamlessly with the surrounding housing in terms of colour and cleanliness. Dashed surfaces are so appealing when painted in such a vibrant colours. In actual fact the colours of premises in the village per say was top class Daly's and Griffin's set the tone and

older premises such as Carrig's have that presence that one finds in rural Irish villages. There are a number of privately owned premises both old and new that were admired for the manner in which they were presented and the owners are to be complemented. The Community Hall in a nice salmon colour and the adjoining courtyard type premises are wonderfully set against the Village Green. The village pump is throw back to another era and it is good to note that it is in such good condition. This adjudicator was very pleased to see the recognition afforded to the great travelling uilleann piper Johnny Doran, obviously he had a close association with Ballynacally. Your ongoing examination of the plans for the built environment is noted – maybe you might consider approaching the owners of Carrigs just to do basic painting job on what it's a beautiful frontage and also if the PO could replace the signage with a more appropriate one in keeping with the rest of the premises. Dereliction is being handled very sensitively.

Landscaping:

The landscaping and planting arrangements in the Village and its immediate surrounds, especially the approach roads, were very appropriate. You have made good choices in trees, low maintenance shrubs and various colourful annuals and perennials. You have chosen well to suit the surroundings particularly in terms of contrast of greenery and colour. The Village Green is a very good example, it is not over beautified so as to take away from the bright house colours and that of the Community Hall. It is very striking and is complemented by suitable park furniture. An ideal location for a secluded picnic of just a flask of what ever you fancy. The Bridge display was top class and of course set off by the local Parish Colours. The planting on the way in from Clarecastle near Moore's Cottage has a distinctive look because of the stone embankment. The Grotto has the two large hostas and perennials that softens the old stonewall structure. There are some excellent private gardens and planting displays in the core of the village and what was noticeable was the healthy state of plants and flowers. The Box hedging, white and red geraniums at the camouflaged shell of an old cottage are very innovative and add to the surroundings. A local lady was manicuring the hedge on the evening.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The improvement of the area on the way out to Kildysart allows one to sit and observe nature and even the increased traffic volumes do not interfere. The idea of contacting the Heritage Council to help you identify wildlife pockets in the immediate area is very laudable, indeed you may also have some local wildlife enthusiast that could also help you. Good proactive approach being taken in this category.

Litter Control:

The Village was free of litter on the evening of adjudication and this is a testament to the good work of the committee in advancing the message of good litter control. The Community as a whole has embraced this message and have helped in a very practical way in making the village litter free. Two or three Keep Village Litter Free signs would be beneficial.

Waste Minimisation:

The re cycling area near the Community Hall was well maintained and free from clutter. It is good to note that the School is getting involved in the Green Schools initiative and this will be an education process for the children in the area of waste management. Reference to the Race Against Waste Publication or indeed web site will also give the Committee other ideas for relevant projects that can be considered for the future.

Tidiness:

There are not many commercial properties in the village hence there is virtually no fly posting to be seen in windows in a large scale. This adjudicator has discouraged the practice of window notices and suggested notice boards in stead. The fact that the village is so tidy is down to both the local people and indeed the FAS workers a fact that was acknowledged in last years report and is being reiterated here. The way that the shell wall of derelict area in centre of village has been treated is a good example; it may be

possible to paint the galvanised roof to finish it off.

The GAA car park while clean and tidy is a bit stark and could benefit from having the boundary wall painted. The new signs were noticed and acknowledged.

Residential Areas:

The encouragement to local residents to maintain properties in good order has been successful as most were in tiptop shape.

The local authority housing development has become more vibrant as more residents have taken it upon themselves to paint premises and boundary walls in different colour schemes – some very striking indeed!

The Green area here has been treated with respect and was free of any rubbish where trees can mature.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main approach roads were well maintained and have already been referred to for the standard of landscaping /planting.

The link road from Kilchreest Graveyard had its verges trimmed back neatly as one came nearer the entrance to the village.

General Impression:

Ballynacally is a very pleasant village to visit especially on a summers evening.

One can relax in the ideally appointed Fairgreen and reflect in peace and quite.

It has the potential to gain more ground in the competition and the adjudicator suggests that just do what is being done at the moment – no need for over elaboration to spoil its uniqueness.

As there is no Church in the Village one presumes that Ballycorick is the local Church and what a lovely location it is situated in.

Keep up the good work and you are wished well for the future