

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballynacally** Ref: **59**
County: **Clare** Mark: **293**
Category: **B** Date(s): **25/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	47
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	40
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	23
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	293

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Ballynacally and Thank you, the Ballynacally Development Association, for your entry to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for your Entry Form, 'Community News' Newsletter, TidyTowns map and the Plans for the Children's playground in the village.

Thanks to your Committee of nine people who take the time and effort to attend your monthly/regular meetings in addition to other TidyTowns events. Your Committee is doing very worthwhile work in this picturesque village of Ballynacally of less than 1,000 people.

Your ongoing partnership work and those that have supported your activities is of obvious benefit to all. This is a vital ingredient in the success of TidyTowns activities. Your communications strategy is excellent and includes the use of the Newsletter, Church Newsletter, Public Meetings, and The Ballynacally Strategic Plan. The appointment of a TidyTowns Education Officer is innovative. The Website is most informative including some great photos on TidyTowns activities; it is an excellent development. The involvement of the local schoolchildren and teachers in discussions on the improvement of the local environment, including the quest for Green Flag status, is a strategy that this adjudicator would praise. The improvement and enhancement of the community is a praiseworthy aim and your involvement in the TidyTowns competition will continue to be of benefit to the people of Ballynacally.

The TidyTowns Village Map supplied is excellent in its presentation, content and simple layout. It was first class, my congratulations to the designer.

A recommendation for your Committee is the future inclusion in your submission of a very basic three-year plan for Ballynacally to assist you in the development of Tidy Town targets and initiatives. Keep it simple, it maybe just a matter of listing together all new and planned projects already evident throughout your

submission.

I wish you all the best with your planned activities, including SummerFest 2008, into the future. Keep up the excellent initiatives and innovation.

The Built Environment:

Ballynacally presents an excellent Built Environment all the way from Ballycorick Bridge/ Church right through to the Village Bridge on the Kildysart Road. The village possesses a charm and character, which are reflected in many of the individual houses and residential estates. Moore's Cottage is a wonderful example, as indeed are other cottages and homes, which are obviously looked after with loving care by their owners. This was obvious to this adjudicator during my visit. Some excellent gardens and homes are to be seen throughout the village. Ballynacally continues to improve and progress over recent years. This is good to see. It also features the many well adorned and decorated commercial premises and shops.

The residential estate looked well as did the lovely individual houses around the village. Well done to all concerned.

Many commercial and public sector premises showed a wonderful display of colour on well-maintained shopfronts and fronts of buildings. These included: Post Office; Carrig's Public House; Griffin's Public House; Fergus Credit Union; Montessori School; HSE Clinic; Community Centre; Daly's Public House. The old Schoolhouse (1843) also looked well.

The contrast in the selected paint colours of the various shopfronts is vivid and wonderful.

The treatment of the old derelict cottage with the painting of the "gentleman and his pint" was excellent.

The GAA Club including its excellent playing facilities is a huge positive influence in the village. Its dedication of the pitch to the late Micheal OhEithir in 1993 is so appropriate. It was good to see the schoolchildren enjoying their sports and running programme on the day of my visit. But it was a pity to see the apparently abandoned old car in the grounds of the GAA Club.

Landscaping:

The landscaped areas of Ballynacally are excellent with stone walls, staked trees, and stone flowerbeds, in addition to some appropriate seating. This adjudicator was impressed with the attention to detail of many of the landscaped areas, in particular the wonderful display at Rose Lover's Bench- a quiet riverside oasis.

A gem is the Fair Green/Picnic area; mature trees, lovely grassed areas; appropriate seating and tables all set off in the vivid contrast of the painted red of the seats and tables and the natural surrounding greenery. The Village Pump is a lovely feature, well done on its perfect working order.

The commercial and residential premises in the village are mainly well landscaped including some wonderful displays of hanging flower baskets and other flower containers. The hanging baskets along the street are a feature.

Care and attention is obvious throughout the village in all aspects of landscaping. The areas opposite the terrace of houses near the GAA pitch are attractive with trees, and shrubs set off by the roadside hedge. The work carried out at the entrance to the Village from Ennis is to be admired. Well done on the "Butterfly Bush" at the entrance to the village and at other locations including the walkway to St Martin's Well.

The majestic Chestnut tree in the adjoining field to the walkway to the Well is a magnificent sight. Treat it with care.

Well done to all involved in the various locations for good landscaping throughout the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Ballynacally is fortunate that it is situated on a beautiful quiet rural location. Every attempt should be made to take advantage of this location. Could further research be undertaken into a Wildlife Habitat Survey to further establish what habitats and wildlife may exist in the area?

I note that the setting up of Wildlife Interpretative panels is a project being planned for the future

The involvement of the school children in appropriate projects such as Wildlife Interpretative Display panels is so very worthwhile.

The excellent work carried out by the Committee on the planting of 'Buddleja' shrubs and the erection of

"butterfly havens" alongside these shrubs is a wonderful initiative and is to be applauded. The use of the natural amenities including the river alongside the little park of the Rose Lovers Bench is excellent. The lovely areas around the Fairgreen and the riverside walkway to Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto and St Martin's Shrine are all wonderful wildlife facilities.

Litter Control:

The Village of Ballynacally was practically litter free on the day of my visit and obviously the work of TidyTowns Committee is paying dividends. The appointment of the TidyTowns Education Officer is proving of benefit in this category. It's important to generate the interest of local schoolchildren in this work.

Waste Minimisation:

The purpose of this category is to encourage TidyTowns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Projects could include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean-up events.

The strategy of working with the National School in its quest for Green Flag status is excellent.

The Recycling bank in the village is noted. Well done to all involved in the recycling effort.

Tidiness:

Ballynacally looked neat and tidy on the day of my visit. As stated above the treatment of the old derelict cottage with the painting of the "gentleman and his pint" was excellent. The signs at the Rose Lovers Bench and the inscription on Doran's Stone were neat and tidy. The Village Fairgreen is a jewel-it must be protected as such.

It was a pity to see the apparently abandoned old derelict car in the grounds of the GAA Club.

Residential Areas:

The residential estate near the GAA pitch looked very well on my visit, with nice landscaping and appropriate tree planting. The common grassed area was well maintained. The older houses throughout Ballynacally are mainly well presented with wonderful displays in their gardens. Also the hanging flower baskets are excellent throughout the village. All these houses help retain the village character and charm of Ballynacally. On the outskirts of the village the high standard of homes is maintained.

Congratulations to all concerned on the upkeep of their residential areas throughout Ballynacally.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach to Ballynacally from Ennis is excellent. Ballycorick Bridge and Church (noted the excellent landscaped area near the entrance), both look well. The approach road is set off by the wonderful sweep of the stone walls on both sides, which draws the visitor into the village. The landscaped areas closer to the village continue the good feel. The access roads from both approach roads were well maintained and the landscaped areas and the stone wall and stone bridges help to show the village to its best advantage.

Well done to all concerned.

General Impression:

My visit to Ballynacally was most enjoyable. The pride that the people of Ballynacally have for their home village is to be applauded. It really is a lovely village with much natural beauty within and close by the village. It's important for the Committee and all involved to maintain Ballynacally's natural and built beauty for the benefit of locals and visitors alike.

The ongoing co-operation between the public, and others, and the TidyTowns Committee is evident in the progress made by Ballynacally in the competition.

My compliments to the sprightly elderly gentleman, who gave me the history of Doran's Stone, our chat was great.

Once beside this ancient stone
Was heard the piper Johnny Doran
Though silent now his noble art
The music lingers in the heart (Jmcc)

Ballynacally lingers in the heart.

Congratulations on your 2008 entry to TidyTowns Competition and good luck for the future