

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYDUFF LOWER**
County : **WATERFORD**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	21
The Built Environment	40	22
Litter Control	40	22
Tidiness	20	15
Residential Areas	30	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24
General Impression	10	4
TOTAL MARK	300	161

Adjudicator's Comments

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballyduff Lower is warmly welcome to the new-look Tidy Towns Competition.

Like many small rural communities it is necessary to work at creating and reinforcing a settlement concept as separate from the surrounding rural countryside. It should seek and secure village nameplates and align these with the 30 mph signs and reinforce both by the commencement of suitable verge and hedgerow cutting to give clear-cut entry points on the roads into the village.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

There is an emphasis within the new Competition on the creation or preservation of wildlife habitat and amenities. We welcomed the indication of the small bird sanctuary at the School and would encourage the conducting of a survey to ascertain bird-types and other wildlife in the area. Members of the Waterford branch of the Irish Wildlife Conservancy might assist the Committee in this regard.

The main amenity area within the community at the moment is the Church and its grounds. There is also a profusion of trees and good planting throughout the area. Perhaps the large open area in front of the school could be enhanced by a decorative circular flowerbed, which with appropriate planting, could become a focal point in time.

LANDSCAPING

The lay-out of the core of the village places a visual emphasis on the large carparking area between the Church and the School. While moderately well presented, there was some capping stones missing from the School's front-facing wall at the lower end, at which point, there was also some accumulation of spoil as well.

The School grounds featured a pleasant stand of mature tree. Incidental free-standing trees within the grounds, should have grass removed from around their base by the introduction of a grass-free circle. The grounds of the Church were well presented. Some attention is directed to the area around the shop adjoining the school carpark.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The shop and the large notice in the centre need to be repainted. The School is very well presented. The former school 1889-1950 has an amount of spoil allowed to accumulate at the base of walls and the entire area should be cleaned at least and ideally repainted. The large Church building will benefit from repainting soon.

LITTER CONTROL

The "Anti-Litter" signs were excellent. There was minor amounts of litter in the large carpark and close to the Church. Throughout the remainder of the village litter management was of high order but minor amounts were noted.

TIDINESS

Sections of the hedgerows and verges were well presented but the sheer size of the centred carpark area calls for special treatment. While the surface of the carpark was acceptable, the provision, for example, of road markings for parking purposes would be beneficial. The road passed the shop beside the Church wall had considerable amounts of spoil which detracted from the general high level of presentation.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Some excellent displays in individual gardens were noted. One particularly fine display, which is carried through to the area outside the garden front-facing wall is commended. The private house beyond the former school (1889) was very well presented with random rubble walls being particularly attractive. The Local Authority houses off the road were themselves well presented, with some featuring splendid garden displays.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

In general, the hedgerows were suitably cut back for a rural community. The "School Ahead" sign is overgrown and also requires to be cleaned. As mentioned earlier the provision of a clear-cut entry point on the main approach road should be worked for as it will give a sense of cohesion to the rural village.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballyduff Lower is welcomed to the Competition. It has a range of imposing public buildings and a natural focal point for the village community. This would be further enhanced by the creation, for example, of a circular flowerbed on the roadsides. Attention is also directed to the need to give a clear-cut delineation between the village itself and the surrounding rural countryside.

All those associated with the entry are commended for their interest and their endeavours which are wished further success in the future.