

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16
Landscaping	40	22
The Built Environment	40	23
Litter Control	40	28
Tidiness	20	14
Residential Areas	30	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>175</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The amended Tidy Towns Competition, with its emphasis on wildlife and the improved presentation of centres over a number of years will prove very much to the advantage of Ballyduff Upper. The River Blackwater is likely to prove a primary asset while the hinterland because of the fur and feather preserve are also strong pluses.

Thank you for the completed detailed questionnaire and also the useful and very clear map which accompanied your entry form. Both were very useful on the day of adjudication. With the support of the Ballyduff Community Council and in co-operation with the statutory bodies Tidy Towns Group are encouraged now to prepare a 3 or 5 year Work Programme which can be implemented from 1997 onwards.

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

As we have mentioned the River will need to feature more prominently in your planning and in the phased development of the centre. The splendid Grotto on the Fermoy road is also a colourful amenity and a good introduction to the centre. The Community grounds behind the Garda Station were very well presented and being extensively used on the day of adjudication. Examine the village for opportunities to create rockery and shrub gardens which are "bird-life" friendly.

### LANDSCAPING

The high ground leading to the Garda Station, School and Sports Ground offers considerable opportunity for imaginative presentation. The Church grounds also are significant in this regard. We welcome the extent of tubs and flowers but would invite the Committee, where possible, to encourage ground planting as well. Judicious planting to act as screening is also worthwhile notably at the old Boys National School where extensive machinery storage takes place.

The Committee should renew their efforts to have the bridge painted as a matter of urgency. The floral display here is good but would benefit from more fulsome planting.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Ballyduff Upper has a fine collection of individually significant buildings which are being presented to good effect. We have already referred to the splendidly sited Garda Station which was very well presented. The School nearby was similarly a delight although there was some weed growth in the car-parking area here. The J Harris and Noonan's pub caught the eye and the hardware store of D McCormack also contributed with a fine display of hanging baskets. Compliments to the ESB for the better presentation of their pill-box at the housing estate on the Fermoy road. The Muintir na Tire building itself was pleasant but the grounds were not maintained to the same high standard. The Co-Operative building on the Tallow road was itself overshadowed by the extent of merchandise in its large foreground. The rubble wall on the Lismore road was very well presented and this standard should be aimed for throughout the centre over a period of time.

### LITTER CONTROL

The centre presented on the day of adjudication a very high level of litter control. Minor amounts were noted on the side road beside the Hall on the Lismore road and again, disappointingly, on the approach to the splendid bridge at the Blackwater. The main junction was entirely free of litter but small amounts were noted between there and the Post Office.

In general litter bins were suitably sited and well maintained. We would recommend additional litter bins on the stretch between the junction and the terrace of houses on the Fermoy road.

## TIDINESS

To fully succeed under this category it is necessary to adopt a two-pronged approach. The objective is to secure a neat and orderly presentation while retaining the essential individuality and character of the centre. Attention has already been directed to the Co-Operative, the Church and farmyard area. The presentation of the housing terrace along the Fermoy road was of a very high standard and the communal grassed areas and planting were very good.

More long-term the treatment of the division between the road, the path or pedestrian area and private land, notably in the approaches to the junction would benefit greatly from a clear cut delineation.

## RESIDENTIAL AREAS

We commend the splendid presentation of private houses on the Lismore road. The terrace of houses on the Fermoy road have been very well presented, a number featuring hanging baskets and all pleasantly and appropriately painted. Some fine new houses on the Fermoy road are also noteworthy.

Presentation of the farm buildings having crossed the River Blackwater was a delight in primary white and black colouring. Other individual houses throughout the centre also made their contribution to an overall fine presentation under this category.

## ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads assume a heightened significance in the smaller centres. In each case the ideal is to strive for a clear-cut divide between the surrounding rural area and the centre itself. Ballyduff Upper is very successful in this regard.

In general the signage - town nameplate, speed limit signs, are well presented, although a few signs were showing indications of road spoil and would benefit from a simple washing. Hedgerows and verges were appropriately cut back and the reinstatement of the random rubble walls on the Lismore approach was a delight.

## GENERAL IMPRESSION

Still in only its second year Ballyduff Upper has settled in nicely. It is blessed with many attributes which would help it to progress in the new-look Tidy Towns Competition with its heightened emphasis on long-term planning and environmental management.