

Tidy Towns 1997

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLINCOLLIG**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **F**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 14-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24	22
The Built Environment	40	23	22
Landscaping	40	20	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	11
Litter Control	40	25	26
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	22	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	23
General Impression	10	6	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>160</b>

## **Ballincollig, Co Cork**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The number of clubs, associations, and official and voluntary bodies providing support to this Committee must be one of the highest in the county. It is surprising therefore that yours is one of the few Committees which has not produced a 3 - 5 year Development Plan, identifying work to be undertaken and allocating each project to a particular year (rather than trying to achieve everything at once). Many Committees are now benefiting from the recommendations in their Development Plans, with a consequent rise in standards. Can you please update your map for next year - several significant locations such as the Royal Gunpowder Mills, the impressive new Village Square, etc., are not shown - and please mark all locations where special projects have been undertaken or awards proposed. Ballincollig is expanding very rapidly and it is necessary to keep pace with developments.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Among the well maintained and landscaped buildings which add prestige to their neighbourhood and which very favourably noted this year, were Colaiste Colm, the charming Church and the School at Innishmore, the Royal Gunpowder Mills Visitor Centre, the Westpark Hotel, and the AIB which carefully retains its traditional village look. The Shopping Centre and the Statoil, Shell and Maxol filling stations were all well presented - it was good to see mature deciduous trees preserved at the latter. Farran Technology is an outstanding example of imaginative factory design. All the suggestions for shopfront awards were photographed. There are still too many plastic and mass-produced signs in the older part of the village.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Planting at the eastern roundabout is first class, and the fine piece of sculpture is well placed. This whole area gives an excellent first impression of Ballincollig. New tree planting was favourably noted on the approach to the Gunpowder Mills, and in the old village. Grassed areas mentioned by last years adjudicator remain well kept, especially around the factories, but there are missed opportunities in some new developments for extensive tree and shrub planting.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The Regional Park, with its sylvan riverside setting, is imaginatively laid out and was well kept again this year. The Park at Coolroe, mentioned in your notes but not marked on your map, could not be found; neither local residents nor the postman had heard of it. Very little progress seems to have been made under the Wildlife heading; Ballincollig, with its pastoral, woodland and riverine surroundings, would seem ideally placed for initiatives in this category. The notes in the Tidy Towns booklet should be helpful, as should the sheets from Conservation Volunteers Ireland sent to all committees this year. The advice of local birdwatchers, anglers and nature lovers

should be sought.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There was considerable disposable litter on adjudication day this year, chiefly in the village centre, near the shopping centre, in the Innishmore estate, and (worst) along the road from the western roundabout to the Lee bridge at the Regional Park. There was also litter in the car park in spite of bins being available.

## **TIDINESS**

Untidy shop signage has already been referred to. There was a surprising amount of kerbside weed in Parkmore Rise, in Manor Park and Tanner Park, and poisoned weeds in Ailesbury - though these housing estates were otherwise very trim. Verges on the main road west of the roundabout were unkempt. There was a lot of weed growth, mainly thistles, opposite the Shell filling station.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Ballincolligs residential estates are far more extensive than one would find surrounding most villages or small towns, and in fact have created a sizeable new town. All - with the exceptions of some weed or litter noted above - are well maintained. The most interesting from a design point of view is the estate in variegated brick at Innishmore. The new West Grove looks promising. A handsome old terrace in course of renovation near the GAA Park was admired, as were the smart new homes backing onto it.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Some of the older roads are inadequate for the traffic generated by the large estates and by commuters from further afield. Surfaces are generally good, and paving very good in the old village and pedestrian entries. The car parks at the Gunpowder Mills, the Shopping Centre, and behind the old village, are very well looked after - quite a feat at the latter where there is so much construction in progress. A handsome stone entrance to the Barracks was admired opposite Darby Arms. Old stone estate walls are well maintained throughout the neighbourhood.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

An old village top-heavy with its expanding population, where impressive work is being done to maintain a balance between commercial progress and respect for the environment.