

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYDEHOB**
County : **CORK**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	31
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	17
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	202	194

Ballydehob, Co Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is good to read, and it is obvious to see, that there is a splendidly cohesive effort on the part of this Association. It is also good that you encourage young people to work with you under the FAS scheme. Your Development Plan on one sheet of paper has been read with interest - you have identified the key areas which need to be addressed, but you have not listed the projects to be undertaken year-by-year (which is the purpose of such a plan) and you do not state if this is a 3 year or 5 year plan! If in fact what is given on the sheet is the work to be done in the first year, it is a formidable undertaking. In regard to your request for advice, you should contact the Tidy Towns Unit at the address and telephone number provided in the Tidy Towns Booklet.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The principal buildings are as usual well maintained - a number of points raised by last years adjudicator have been efficiently attended to, though the railings of the AIB, surprisingly, have not been repainted. The Shell filling station (is it new?) is very well presented; stonework was admired at the rear; but does this really fit in with the village streetscape? Almost all shops and business premises have excellent frontages and first-class sign-writing. (When entering shopfronts for awards, the entire building should be taken into consideration; those with unpainted gables, or poorly kept roofs and chimney stacks, PVC glazing bars on upper windows and plastic or mass-produced signs, tend to be eliminated at an early stage).

LANDSCAPING

The floral decorations are again most pleasing; random flower beds here and there add enormously to the village atmosphere because of their informality. Conifers at the western end of the village had been cut down, which seemed a pity; is there a good reason for this? The new grass-verge at the estate on the Schull road was rapidly becoming a weed-verge on adjudication day.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It was good to see ducks enjoying the river. The river amenity is very well looked after, and obviously attracts a large number of admirers. The streamside area had been nicely tidied, and the attractive childrens playground was weed-free this year - all very impressive.

LITTER CONTROL

This was good again this year - congratulations.

TIDINESS

Some kerbside weed was obvious in several places, for example in Greenmount road, and considerable weed in the area by the viaduct.

(Sometimes it is preferable to grass-over an open space rather than try to keep it weed-free). Nonetheless, Ballydehob gives a good impression as a tidy village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

As before, housing both old and new is very well presented, and this is one of the chief delights of Ballydehob. The new estate on the Schull road referred to last year is excellent, making use of the traditional West Cork strong colours. An old terrace in Greenmount road was particularly admired. In several places the private gardens spilling out over boundary walls were most attractive.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces and paving are good throughout. The Church car park and the car park on the Skibbereen road were very well looked after this year. Excellent stone walls continuing from the main road bridge towards the playground were noted; the approaches from Bantry and Skibbereen meeting at this point are first class, with the exception of one area mentioned last year on the north side of the Skibbereen road (almost opposite the 30mph sign). A few, but not many, entrances and side lanes still need attention. An item for future consideration not listed in your Development Plan is the removal of overhead wires and unsightly poles, and the placing of more appropriate lamp standards (those on the bridge are excellent); an undoubtedly expensive long-term scheme of this kind would make an immeasurable difference, as has been seen in other centres.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A very pleasing village, improving every year, where a number of important details still need to be tackled.