

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYOUSKILL**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 16-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	--
The Built Environment	40	22	--
Landscaping	40	23	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	--
Litter Control	40	33	--
Tidiness	20	14	--
Residential Areas	30	20	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	--
General Impression	10	6	--
TOTAL MARK	300	185	--

Ballyouskill, Co. Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

We welcome Ballyouskill to the Tidy Towns Competition and wish them every success in it.

For such a small village it is most impressive the way you have approached the project through fundraising and your contact with Kilkenny County Council. On adjudication day it was obvious that some work needs to be done so therefore do not be dismayed if, in the first year, your marking is comparatively low.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

In this respect Ballyouskill does not have many major buildings but the local Church looked excellent and was very well presented on adjudication day. The Wheel Inn also looked excellent and its garden is one of the features of the village.

LANDSCAPING

Again your comments on the entry form have been noted. In your plans, tree planting should feature very strongly both along the approach roads and on private properties. However, do not over-plant as to do so only causes clutter whereas judicious planting tends to soften the landscape. If you decide to plant trees please do make contact with Coillte, your Local Authority or indeed any landscaping expert that can give you assistance in this respect. Do not lose sight of using shrubs which will give a flowering effect on an all-year-round basis.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your comments under this heading on the entry form have been noted and are most commendable. This is a new category in the competition with the emphasis on conservation and the enhancement of wildlife habitat and the environment. Woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, grass margins, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats. The Committee would need to identify these in their area and then determine the appropriate action to be taken to conserve and enhance them. Guidelines in the Tidy Towns book offer other suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. This should be done in conjunction with your Local Authority, a local wildlife expert or a member of your Community with experience in this area.

LITTER CONTROL

Congratulations to all concerned. There was no litter to be seen on adjudication day.

TIDINESS

This is a very tidy village and was extremely well presented.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Ballyouskill is entirely residential and made up of both private and farmhouse premises all of which were extremely well presented.

Because of the size of its population it would be important that this kind of co-operation continues into the future if further success is to be achieved. In the majority of cases the gardens were a blaze of colour and congratulations are due to all concerned.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces were generally good. Adjudication normally takes place between either the speed limit signs or the village nameplate signs. In the case of Ballyouskill this adjudication was extended somewhat on both sides of the village so it would be necessary to do some verge cutting for a reasonable distance on either side of the village beyond the nameplates. Please however bear in mind that in doing so you should try to reserve an area of each verge for the growing of wildflowers, in other words, only cut roughly half way in from the road edge to the hedge or wall.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballyouskill is a most pleasant village - very well presented and was in full bloom on adjudication day. Try to plan your work each year well in advance bearing in mind that adjudication takes place during the month of June.