

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYCANEW**
County : **WEXFORD**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	21	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	25	26
Tidiness	20	11	12
Residential Areas	30	25	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	23
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	185	187

Ballycanew, Co. Wexford

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

A five year plan was submitted and has been further expanded to outline development for the future years. This is a good document as it reflects the live issues which are current in the town and provides direction for future work. There is good presentation of how the Committee operates and acquires funds. The report could be improved with drawings of where the works will occur and what exactly will be done in each year as the Action Plan progresses. The works at Ounavarra Park have been very effective and match the goals of the Development Plan. We really look forward to seeing what happens in 1998.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Development Plan does not address much of the centre of the town which needs a much stronger grasp of how the urban space is going to be handled. The school grounds look very well and present a very strong community approach. However many of the buildings which front onto the main road around the centre space need a much stronger cohesive theme to tie them in as an important urban statement. Of importance is the need for the Committee to tackle permanent large scale planting within the centre of the town rather than focusing on flower beds as it will take several years for their efforts to mature, but the benefits to the town will be significant.

LANDSCAPING

The flower beds provided throughout the town reflect the wonderful splash of colour but do not miss on the opportunity of ensuring that they integrate the different spaces throughout the town. This may mean larger flower beds or the use of plants which are larger scale. Of importance is the use of plants that have a longer life span. This reduces ongoing maintenance costs and means that past efforts to visually improve the town are much more permanent. The Committee must be complimented on both the past and recent works which have been carried out extensively throughout the town. A list of plants should be drawn up in the Development Plan to allow for continuity of planting choice, particularly in relation to the school and the adjoining streets.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Wildlife concerns must be extended and integrated. Though the school project is a beginning, the importance of this approach is how it extends through the town. This is an area to tackle and no doubt will be handled successfully in future years given the past efforts of the Committee. Of note would be the concept of not zoning efforts that deal with wildlife but

rather to bring the benefits of the countryside into the town. This may mean the introduction of bird houses, winter watering areas for birds and greater use of indigenous plants.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is good which means a very effective management programme. Litter bins were not visible and there seemed to be greater concern for handling litter at the centre of the town. The Management Plan is the most effective way to control litter and demonstrates that not too many litter bins are required and the Committee must be congratulated on their efforts.

TIDINESS

In general tidiness at the centre of the town is impacted on by the excessive areas of tarmac and loose gravel at the sides of the roads. An easy method of solving this issue would be to define the edges of the carriageway more clearly so that pedestrian areas can be more clearly defined and easier to clean.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There is very good integration of gardens and amenity space and this can be further extended over the future years. Of importance in the integration is the use of similar plants in both private spaces and the public spaces. The improvements within the amenity areas demonstrate a strong community support and the lack of vandalism to the recent planting stock clearly demonstrates that everyone in the town is concerned in ensuring that environment enhancements are maintained.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The entry to the town is good. However there is a very strong division between the maintenance on the entry roads and the centre of the town. There should be more gradual transition so that the town limits do not define the extent of operations under the Tidy Town Committee. Though many of the areas are kept tidy it is recognised that the Local Authority must contribute to improving the edges of carriageways.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A very strong community effort has been made with the projects that have been placed. The next step is to ensure that the Committee finds something special to create an individual image for the centre of the town. At present all works being carried out demonstrate that this is easily possible and one looks forward to the continued improvements.