

*"Caring for our environment"*

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

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	36
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	32	30
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	8	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>215</b>

## **Ballydehob, Co. Cork.**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The adjudicator would like to thank you for the copy of your 3-5 year Tidy Towns Plan. It would be useful when you are next updating this Plan if you would indicate your objectives year by year. The new Tidy towns Handbook has been issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government to all Tidy towns Committees. This is a highly useful document which will be a great help both to established Tidy Towns Committees and to all new entrants. It is divided into a series of seven Action Sheets that together cover all aspects of the Competition. It might be most useful for a committee to run a series of seminar evenings based on the contents of this Tidy Towns Handbook. The photographs submitted with your entry were also most helpful.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Ballydehob is a town of great character, a hilly town with the added attraction of water nearby. Your objective to have all cables put under ground is highly desirable. This will take time but will be well worth all your effort. The Bridge walk is one of the highlights of Ballydehob and the views from here are excellent. The Community Hall and Tennis Courts are being well maintained, as is the FAS Office. These are key facilities in your community. Ballydehob appears to have retained many of its original buildings in the main street. Colour is used skilfully in the town to highlight a number of buildings. The adjudicator is pleased to note that this extends to the side streets also. Many premises stand out – J. O'Farrell's stands out as a small and interesting old shopfront. Duggan's Restaurant and the Woodcock are two others where design and colour are skilfully combined. At The Woodcock the area over the name needs attention as paint is peeling away. At the AIB premises some attention to the iron railing is necessary. Rust from this railing is staining the capping to the low wall. A number of advertising placards were not on pavements. This is not desirable especially with the needs of the disabled in mind.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Tubs and window boxes are widely used, and in one or two instances perhaps they have been over used. The Park and Playground area continues to be maintained to a high standard. The Park a superb feature of the town. The bridge area looked really well.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The water area by the Twelve Arch Bridge is a major asset to the town. Wildfowl are thriving here. Have you considered erecting some wildlife information boards in the town to encourage people to visit the area of the bridge. Nesting boxes on the island were noted. Have you considered having a survey done of the local wildlife as this would be of help for the suggested information boards.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control was really good on adjudication day and you are to be congratulated on this. This is especially impressive as adjudication was carried out in the late afternoon.

## **TIDINESS**

A large untidy open space was noted on the Schull approach – this was closed off by a number of gates. If no work is planned immediately for this site then screening is recommended. Along the road past the Car Park at the Playground an untidy area with building materials was noted, and this requires appropriate early attention. The rusty trailer in the Car Park at the Play Ground should be removed. From the Twelve Arch Bridge walk an old shed can be seen from the town end of the walk and this should be painted. Luxurious weed growth was noted in one roof gutter along the main street and this should be removed immediately as it will eventually lead to damage to the building. Behind Hudson's old tractor and old car were visible and these require screening from view.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Good private developments were noted on the Schull approach road, and new development under way was also evident. Residents in many cases are making use of strong colours and this suits the town. Very good landscaping was noted at Lynwood. Good use of natural rock as a feature was noted in private landscaping on the Durrus road. Overall private house owners in general are maintaining their property to a high standard, and this is to be encouraged and commended.

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

Approach roads to Ballydehob were impressive and they have all obviously been cut on an on-going basis. The approach from Skibbereen is a fine wide open one with excellent low stone walling forming the route boundary. When banks on approach roads are being cut do make sure that the nesting needs of wildlife are considered. Banks should not be too tightly cut, and all cut grass must be raked and removed immediately.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Ballydehob is a town of much character, and the Tidy Towns Committee are doing excellent work, and they deserve the support of everyone.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (09/08/00)**

The village of Ballydehob has greatly improved in its presentation over the last number of years. The buildings of the town generally looked quite fresh on the second adjudication day in particular Spar and the school and its boundary wall which were very fresh. However the railings to the AIB were still in need of attention although the sign to the Woodcock pub appeared to have been repainted. The rusty barrels on the School Road were still in evidence. Directional signs at the junction of Bantry and Skibbereen Roads appeared quite grubby and stained and should be washed down. The village is quite restrained in terms of its floral displays, a practice which is to be commended. The walk over the Twelve Arch Bridge is an attractive and interesting one and the adjudicator would like to reiterate the remarks made at first adjudication stage in relation to the wildlife information board. Perhaps you could get the local school children involved in formulating a study of the habitats of the area.