

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballymurphy**

Ref: **627**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **202**

Category: **A**

Date: **16/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	24	23
Landscaping	40	27	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	32	31
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	202	195

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you indeed for all the information sent with your entry form and for the map which was most useful on adjudication day. Thank you also for the development plan which was read with interest. You appear to have a very solid approach to what you are doing. The road to success is to identify each year what you realistically can achieve within your physical and financial resources. Do not try to do too much as failure to do so can sometimes lead to frustration. It is indeed gratifying to read that you continue to have the support of Carlow County Council and most importantly – your local community who, from the appearance of Ballymurphy on adjudication day obviously have a tremendous interest in the preservation of their environment. Well done to all concerned. The adjudicator last year provided you with an in depth report. The following therefore is by way of comment on further progress to date and should be read in tandem with this report.

The Built Environment:

Your public buildings: - Church, School and Community Hall were again very well presented this year. The surroundings of the Church and the School looked extremely well and your graveyard is also being well maintained. You do indeed have some derelict sites and, in this connection, and if you have not already done so, you should liaise with Carlow County Council who, under the Derelict Sites Act, have powers to act in such a situation. Your Grotto is a very nice feature as indeed is your village pump. Business premises throughout the village are being well looked after and obviously their owners have joined in the spirit of the competition.

Landscaping:

Hanging baskets, tubs of flowers and window boxes, where presented, created a lovely atmosphere in the village. Baskets on poles on the bridge and on the walls are a lovely initiative. Well done to all concerned. New landscaping at "The Pound" was noted and the display of flowers and shrubs on the approach roads from both Borris and Enniscorthy were to be admired. The display of stones leading to "Nadur" is a lovely feature and the open spaces in which they reside are being beautifully maintained. Your stonewalls, which are a feature of the village, looked very well and are being well maintained also.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your comments under this heading are noted. The items which you have mentioned were not, however, seen on adjudication day. Perhaps they were not available at that time and will be provided during the season. In the meantime you will continue to receive the same mark as last year.

Litter Control:

Ballymurphy was practically litter free on adjudication day. This was a wonderful achievement and all concerned are to be congratulated. Continue to monitor this situation throughout the season as it is an important part of the competition.

Tidiness:

The village was again presented in a very neat and tidy manner and it looked resplendent in the summer sunshine. Obviously a great community effort is involved here. Well done to all concerned.

Residential Areas:

Residences are being well maintained and some had very nice gardens in full bloom on adjudication which were a joy to behold. The individual effort is a very important part of the competition, you cannot succeed without it. Again, a great effort by all concerned.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces are extremely good and are being well maintained. In this great credit is due to Carlow County Council. As already mentioned, approach roads are beautifully presented. These roads are an important part of the competition as they tend to set the tone for the rest of the village.

General Impression:

The presentation of the village looked wonderful and great progress has been made by the village in only its second year in the competition. The adjudicator looks forward to returning to Ballymurphy again next year to see further progress. In the meantime keep up the good work.