

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyclough**

Ref: **536**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **170**

Category: **B**

Date: **25/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	29
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	22	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	12
Litter Control	40	23	22
Tidiness	20	10	8
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>164</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

There is very good evidence of the continuing work in the village of Ballyclough and the village has a very pleasant aspect. The development plan presented last year was not seen by this adjudicator this year. This would be very helpful so please submit this plan each year with the application. A map would also be very helpful although the map in the village centre gives excellent directions and is very useful for visitors to the village. A brief history would also form a useful display in the village centre. Working with the local authority will enable a number of the projects to get underway that could not be taken on by the committee alone.

### The Built Environment:

The Catholic church is a lovely stone building and appears in very good condition in its imposing position above the village. The converted Church Of Ireland church has given a new lease of life to this building and this is very welcome as many such churches frequently go into disrepair when not used. The rows of single storied cottages in the main street are particularly attractive. Alterations to these can change the character of the buildings and it would be helpful when refurbishing them to retain the original style, although some of this has already been lost. The stonewalls through the village play an important part of the built environment and are attractive. There are a number of repairs needed to the walls especially on the Cecilstown Road. It would be a shame if these walls were to crumble further and hopefully a restoration project would return them to their original state. The same applies to the walls on the main street to the rear of the display board and landscaped

area. The capping stone along the wall is missing in many places and it would be nice to reinstate this. The Co-Op continues to need attention, especially its surrounds at the entrance. The community centre looks well and appears to be cared for diligently. The shops are well presented with good standards of painting.

### **Landscaping:**

The Catholic church grounds and the school grounds are maintained to a very high standard and give a very attractive appearance with very well cared for grass and various plantings. The adjoining graveyard is very well maintained also. The graveyard at the back of the funeral home is in need of restoration – it is understood that this is one of the planned projects. A sensitive restoration would be welcome here. The area along the main street with the seat and well cared for grass and borders looks very well. This gives a pleasant image to the village. Many gardens are being very well cared for and the effect of this on the roadsides is very beneficial and adds to the overall village appearance. Tree planting in the street is also good. Any opportunity to plant trees, be it at corners of fields or along the roadside, should be taken. The mature trees within and around the village will not last forever. Replacement trees always need to be planted to provide continuity from one generation to the next. Ordinary trees, such as ash, chestnut or sycamore, need to be planted for future generations to enjoy.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

A project relating to this aspect is needed. The stream may offer opportunities. At present the area is heavily covered with vegetation and revealing the stream and making some walkways would be helpful.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter cleaning was noted in progress early in the morning at the community centre. There was some litter noted along the roadsides and at a gate on the Cecilstown Road where an amount had accumulated. Constant vigilance and encouragement to people to help in this respect would be worthwhile.

### **Tidiness:**

This is a very tidy village. Some attention is needed to the outside of the creamery and to a number of roadside gaps in the hedging. The site opposite the Catholic church seems to be about to be developed. Development sites always seem to bring a certain amount of untidiness which needs to be cleared before builders leave the site.

### **Residential Areas:**

The two storied houses on the Cecilstown Road look very well and their gardens contribute to the appearance of the village. Single storied houses on the same road are also well presented. As stated above, these and the similar single storied houses on the main street need to have their identity preserved and care is needed when work or alterations are made. The small housing development off the main street opposite the signboard is nicely tucked in. Building construction should always be sympathetic with the tone of the village itself. Name-plates for the various housing areas would be helpful. Individual houses on the approach roads are attractive and well cared for.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The cobble stone gullies on the main street are indeed worthy of restoration and these should be revealed as much as possible. The surfaces of the roads are well kept. New building construction often disrupts the area by roadsides and it is important that reinstatement occurs before builders leave the site. The natural vegetation of the roadsides is attractive and rich in variety. Roadside

verge cutting should be sensitive to this. Note was made of the wheelchair access at the roadside

**General Impression:**

There is excellent work in progress in this village and the historical aspects could be charted or displayed on a board similar to the village map.