

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyhooly**

Ref: **596**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **200**

Category: **A**

Date: **24/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	29	27
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	18
Litter Control	40	28	26
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	200	195

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballyhooly is a very compact village and the work of the committee can concentrate on very specific locations and projects. The map was helpful in locating all the places mentioned in the submission. As was stated last year, a plan is really needed now so that a coordinated and detailed planning approach can be put in place. This can be reviewed annually and progress assessed. Without such a plan there is a danger that items are worked upon independently and this may not help the overall development.

The Built Environment:

The Church is a very prominent building. The stone structure looks very well and is set-off with high quality tar macadam and well-tended graveyards. The one storied housing along the street looks very well and the painting schemes are attractive. The old forge is well treated and the gravel surround sets it off well. The castle is an attractive feature within the village and adds character. The school and hall are in good condition. The business premises have a high standard. The old church and graveyard are a little neglected at present and this may form part of a future project.

Landscaping:

The shrubbery along the castle walls towards the cross is very well planted and maintained and

contains a lively range of plants to give interest at all times of the year. Containers at the church and school are colourful. The hanging baskets along the one-storied houses in the streets add a lovely touch to the village and enhance the houses and the street. The picnic table by the castle entrance and surrounds give a very attractive seating area and the shrubbery along the wall can be admired there. The vacant area opposite the Top petrol station must have potential and no doubt this has been investigated. The entrance planting to the GAA grounds looks a little sad at present.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

A project designed to help people appreciate wild life is needed for this part of the entry. This could involve the utilisation of the nearby riverside area. The graveyard may also have potential in this regard. Local wildlife knowledge should be compiled and passed onto the school children to preserve it for future generations.

Litter Control:

Ballyhooly is looked after very well in this regard; there was very little litter seen. This is down to all the efforts made in this direction. Small pieces of litter were noted. Constant vigilance is needed and a good educational approach to ensure that the village remains clean.

Tidiness:

A tidy appearance is noticeable on entry to the village. At some stage, the removal of overhead cables would be very desirable and pressure on the local authority to further this type of work is one of the difficult challenges of a Tidy Towns committee. Building work always brings some untidiness, but this is temporary in nature. A Tidy Towns committee should keep an eye on developments to see that developers leave the site reinstated and that all materials are removed from the site.

Residential Areas:

The single story houses form a major portion of the housing within the village and the colouring and overall presentation of these is tremendous. They are helped by the hanging baskets. The houses at Liam Burke Terrace are also well cared for and their gardens were also well maintained. The new housing at Glaise na mBreac is progressing well. There is need for tree planting on the central green as well as proper road finish at this estate. Single houses on approach roads are attractively maintained and add to the attractiveness of the approach roads.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The surface of the main streets is extremely bad with serious uneven surfaces and potholes. Similarly, as mentioned above, the surface in the new housing estate needs attention. Footpaths are generally in a fine state, but there are a number of places where these are broken and need repairing.

General Impression:

Ballyhooly is a compact village. There is very good appearance. An attractive picture is painted with the colourful houses and the containerised plantings.