

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Baile Mhic Ire\Baile Bh**

Ref: **70**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **203**

Category: **B**

Date: **07/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	24	23
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	203	199

Overall Developmental Approach:

You appear to have reasonably good support from the community in the village, although your committee of eight seems rather small. You mention in your application form that you are finding problems maintaining the entire length of the two villages combined. It was mentioned in last year's report and that of the previous year that you should give consideration to entering the villages as two separate entities. You mentioned that you are tying up the loose strings of your three year development plan. For next year's competition you should formulate a new one. This can be based on that previously used and updated.

The Built Environment:

In Ballyvourney the Garda Station, thatched Siopa an Muilinn, Siopa de Roiste and the Mill's Inn all looked extremely well. The magnificent gardens to the latter contribute strongly to the appearance of this village. In Ballymackeery, the Health Centre was fine, as was the Abbey Hotel. The rest of the buildings appeared extremely fresh. Colaiste Gobnait was well maintained, with its stone boundary wall and mature trees overhanging above. The church looked extremely fresh in yellow. The National School looked well and Udaras na Gaelteachta was fine. Centra was very fresh and O'Tuama's looked quite charming. The adjudicator was pleased to note the retention of its original up and down sash timber windows. A two storey building beside the garage looked to be in bad repair and should be improved upon before next year's competition. Kelliher's Garage was also looking extremely neglected and appeared to have been abandoned. Perhaps a landscaped project

could be considered beside Texaco. Any shops or pubs retaining their projecting plastic signs should consider their replacement with ones of a more traditional timber variety.

Landscaping:

The standard in this category of the competition was extremely good, with both public spaces and private grounds contributing well to this aspect of the competition. The Mill's Inn in Ballyvourney was mentioned previously. A high daisy-topped stone wall with on the Killarney Road was admired, as was a similar one in Ballymackeery. The graveyard was well maintained, although its gate appeared quite flaky, and should be attended to before next year's competition. Rose-beds opposite Colaiste Gobnait were greatly admired, as was the magnificent grotto with its water feature. A raised stone bed on the Macroom side of the village was admired, as was the millennium monument on this side of Ballymackeery.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The twin villages are most fortunate in this regard. You have a wealth of water, and forest areas, which make ideal habitats for birds and small mammals. Your close proximity to Sanaghloon Woods and the Sullane River means you are indeed fortunate in this regard. The close proximity to Gougane Barra is also to your advantage.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was reasonably good although bottles were spotted to the front of the Mill's Inn and a cup was evident on the road to St. Gobnait's well. Besides this, litter control was generally good in both villages.

Tidiness:

Do ensure that outbuildings are not neglected when considering presentation. A rusty tin roofed outbuilding on a hillside on the Killarney Road and one behind Texaco in Ballymackeery village, created a bad impression. Weed control was a problem, to the base of the stone wall on the Killarney Road and a derelict building beside the take-away looked unfortunate.

Residential Areas:

Sean O'Riordain Terrace looked extremely well, as did the new houses set behind trees between the two villages at Cuil na Coille. A garden with permanent planting behind a timber fence on the road to St. Gobnait's well was admired, as was a garden filled with hydrangeas near the Abbey Hotel. Perhaps further consideration should be given to the landscaping and open space to Ruach an tSuláin. A rough area beside it created a bad impression - perhaps more houses are planned in this location? A nice garden filled with flowers beside Texaco created a good impression. Do ensure that houses don't neglect their gables when considering presentation, as these are prominent as one proceeds along the village streets.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

In terms of street furniture, a barrier by the phone box had been badly damaged and was bent over. Along the Killarney Road, the cycle path was admired, but the large number of advertising hoardings create a very cluttered appearance. The road to St. Gobnait's well is attractive with its overhanging trees, but a broken "men at work" sign had evidently been there for some time and should be removed. The road surface and parking area in Ballymackeery Village looks quite bare. Perhaps some tree planting could be considered in this location. On the Macroom side of the village, weedy kerbs created a bad impression and a number of advertising hoardings had become quite tatty. The hedgerows were well maintained in this location.

General Impression:

Ballymackeery / Ballyvourney is an interesting twin centre for adjudicators to visit. Perhaps, as previously mentioned, you should consider entering the two villages separately, in order to make your job easier, in future years.