

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballincollig**

Ref: **506**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **223**

Category: **F**

Date: **29/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	27	28
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	27	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	223	220

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballincollig Tidy Town's Committee seems rather small given the large population of the town. However, it seems to be most successful in its work. You appear to have high level of support from the residents associations and the local boy scouts! Your work programme makes interesting reading and will make a real difference to the town. Perhaps for next year's competition you could consider annotating your development plan for ease of reading on the day. At the moment, it is quite difficult to cross-reference the information from the development plan to the coloured dots on the map.

The Built Environment:

Your competitions in relation to shop fronts, industrial estates, commercial premises and pubs is to be commended. Public and commercial premises were presented to a high standard on the day. The White Horse Inn looked very fresh and the Oriel Hotel was well presented. Other buildings of note were O'Sullivan's, the AIB Bank, the Tudor Rose Florist and the Corner House. O'Crualaioi's and Siopa Brog show a good use of the Irish language. It was noted that Vince Russell's has been sold and, hopefully, it will be successfully integrated into the streetscape of the town. The medical centre was well presented but its boundary wall will need attention before next year's competition.

Landscaping:

This is an aspect of the competition in which you show an obvious enthusiasm. In your development plan, you mention bulbs and flowers etc. Do ensure that you put an equal, if not a higher emphasis, on the permanent planting and trees for year-round permanent effect. The petunias at the road junctions of the roundabout on the Macroom Road were admired, as were the rose trees on the roundabout on the Cork side of the town. The trees along the main street create a most attractive effect. The entrance to the Gun Powder Mills was well presented and the roundabout on the Cork side with its rose trees, well cut grass verges and stone sculpture looked extremely well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your work in relation to commissioning a wildlife expert to assess the habitats in the regional park is to be commended. The provision of bat and bird boxes, as well as the wealth of natural life along the canals, makes this a strong asset in this category of the competition.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was not to the highest of standards. Perhaps litter bins will have to be emptied daily. A lot of litter was evident along the main street outside the supermarket, O'Mahony's Insurance Brokers and to quite a number of areas in between.

Tidiness:

The town generally looked neat and ordered on adjudication day. However, weed control was a problem on the Macroom Road and to a rather grubby boundary wall in this location. Advertising hoardings on this road also created a rather cluttered effect. An empty house beside the medical centre had been vandalised and an empty site beside the tyre centre created a bad impression.

Residential Areas:

Your Tidy Districts and Estate competitions are obviously paying dividends. Individual houses and estates were generally presented to the highest standard. An attractive house with stone wall and planting extending, through the grass verge to the roadside on the Macroom approach was admired. The Aylsbury and Wyndham Downs Estates were well presented. The many trees to Coolroe Meadows will pay dividends in future generations. The consistent design of signage to housing estates throughout the town looks extremely well and is most effective. Most houses were presented to the highest standards, although one or two boundary walls were not to the same level.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The bi-lingual signage is a most effective idea. The Cork Road was well presented, as was the Blarney Road. On the Macroom Road, a concrete block wall to an industrial premises looked quite rough. Perhaps growing a creeper along it would be more effective. The speed limit sign on this side of the town was damaged and should be replaced.

General Impression:

Ballincollig is a busy centre which has extended rapidly over the last number of years. Its Tidy Towns Committee shows an evident pride in its presentation and continues to produce most effective results.