

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballycotton**

Ref: **504**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **205**

Category: **B**

Date: **26/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	31
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	24	23
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	205	202

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator appreciates the problem Ballycotton Development Company is having in relation to developers leaving sites and buildings empty and derelict. Hopefully you will be able to resolve these various issues that are concerning you, with Cork County Council before too long. The adjudicator appreciates the problems that you are experiencing, but don't lose heart. Ballycotton is a marvelous village with immense potential to do extremely well in the competition. The adjudicator noticed in traveling around the village, a plastic pipe set on top of a cast iron vent pipe - this looks inappropriate and you should ask Cork County Council to replace it with a cast iron one. For next year's competition perhaps you could put together a three to five year work programme outlining your plans for the village's future. This document need only be two or three pages long outlining your objectives and setting a timescale against their implementation.

The Built Environment:

Public and commercial buildings in the town generally looked well on adjudication day. In particular, the two churches looked most attractive and the new floodlighting to the Catholic church set on the hill, with stone steps leading up to it, must make a dramatic impact after dark! The school looked well in deep red and green colour. Sean McGrath's is an attractive traditional front. Perhaps consideration could be given to removing the plastic signage and replacing it with ones of a more traditional timber variety. Grapefruit Moon looked fresh in red. The gable wall to the Garda Station should be painted before next year's competition. The Post Office looks quite fresh. Guesthouses

and hotels such as Spanish Point Guesthouse and Bayview Hotel looked well. The Cliff Palace should be painted up before next year's competition. Do discourage the removal of render from traditional buildings - this is not only inappropriate from a conservation point of view but can lead to structural problems through water penetration.

Landscaping:

There is scope for further development in this area of the competition. The grotto area was fine, but some weeding was required to the stone paving and the adjacent painted seat was broken. Incidental landscaped areas of nasturtiums and michaelmas daisies were greatly admired. The harbour and pier area was reasonably well maintained and affords the traveller a magnificent view of the bay, island and lighthouse. The landscaped areas leading from the top road are in need of greater maintenance. There is scope for further incidental landscaped spaces to the seaside of the main street. Consideration should be given to the restoration of the village pumps.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildlife board on the Shanagarry side of the village was admired and the coastal path is a magnificent facility to have on your doorstep. Ballycotton is most fortunate in its marvelous seaside location.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was generally quite good although some papers were noted on the Shanagarry Road, to the car park area by the Station and in the vicinity of the harbour area.

Tidiness:

Dead grass and weeds appeared to have been sprayed on the stone walls to the Shanagarry side of the village. Do ensure when presenting the town that the laneways leading down to the waters edge are taken into consideration, as they are a most charming aspect of the village. Weed control was a problem to the harbour area and on the road leading to the cliffs. A messy yard area with badly maintained outbuildings on the road leading to the cliffs looked unfortunate. Consider screening the recycling areas. A weedy area beside the Cliff Palace looked unfortunate and the wall should be re-whitewashed in this area.

Residential Areas:

Although the cottages on the top road had been whitewashed, the roofs should also be painted up before next year's competition. The new houses to the Shanagarry side of the village at Silver Strand looked fine in stone and render with their stone boundary wall to the front and new pavement area. The adjudicator appreciates the problems you are experiencing in relation to empty derelict houses in the village. These should be restored to their former seaside glory. The thatched cottages were greatly admired. Power's Terrace was quite inconsistent in its presentation, as one house appeared empty and rather neglected. An attractive garden with pots of geraniums was admired, as was a magnificent garden with montbretia and lupins, and a large landscaped area near the Post Office. Another attractive garden was that to a house with stone and rendered wall on the road leading to the cliffs, where its garden extended over the roadside. It was disappointing to note that the trees to Seaview Park by the cliffs have failed. Consideration should be given to planting that is more suitable to its environment and can withstand the harsh elements of a seaside location. Atlantic House was admired. It has retained, for the most part, its original slates and it was marvelous to see the number of houses that have retained their traditional up and down sash timber windows.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Shanagarry Road the sign was virtually obscured by overgrown grass, although the purple michaelmas daisies strategically placed were greatly admired. Directional signs near the centre of the village were in need of some attention. The top road was well maintained with a number of attractive garden areas.

General Impression:

Ballycotton is a charming and busy seaside village which affords the visitor a magnificent view of the bay as one drives through along the main street. It is an unusual and quite charming fishing village which has the potential to do extremely well in the competition.