

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballymacoda**

Ref: **462**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **211**

Category: **A**

Date: **26/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	29
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>208</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator was most disappointed to note that you had not included a three to five year work programme. This is essential at this stage in the competition. The document need only be two or three pages long, outlining your plans for the village's future and setting a time scale against the implementation of these proposals. It would be of immense benefit to the adjudicators and to yourselves to monitor progress as the years go by. Neither did you include a map which would have been useful on adjudication day. The adjudicator is in agreement with the comments of last year's judge in relation to the restoration of the hill cemetery. This would be a fine project to undertake and one of immense historical and cultural interest to both the local community and visitors.

### The Built Environment:

Most of the buildings along Main Street appeared well cared for on the day. However, rusty tin roofs were evident as one looked along the street. Do ensure that work in relation to presentation of these buildings is not merely confined to the gables but also consider roofscapes. The church looked quite magnificent, set up on its grassy hillside, with magnificently maintained grounds. Coleman's was fine, as was The Tavern, although its wrought iron sign above the door should be repainted before next year's competition. Do discourage the use of plastic signage and encourage its replacement with signs of a more traditional timber variety.

## **Landscaping:**

Both commercial premises and private houses contribute well to this category of the competition, with their colourful displays. However, do not confine your landscaping treatment to merely the cosmetic work of floral displays, but try to implement more permanent planting in terms of trees and shrubs that will last for years to come and look well year round. The tubs filled with daisies and petunias were admired and the picnic area by the stream is most attractive. Perhaps you could consider replacing the railings used in this area with a more naturally appearing type of barrier such as rocks or simple spherical painted bollards. A colourful raised bed on the Knockadoon side of the village was admired.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The adjudicator was disappointed to note that you had left this section of the application form blank. Ballymacoda is most fortunate with its attractive stream area and wealth of mature trees. Consult a local expert to advise you on the wildlife habitats in the area and put forward a plan for their maintenance.

## **Litter Control:**

Both commercial premises and private houses contribute well to this category of the competition, with their colourful displays. However, do not confine your landscaping treatment to merely the cosmetic work of floral displays, but try to implement more permanent planting in terms of trees and shrubs that will last for years to come and look well year round. The tubs filled with daisies and petunias were admired and the picnic area by the stream is most attractive. Perhaps you could consider replacing the railings used in this area with a more naturally appearing type of barrier such as rocks or simple spherical painted bollards. A colourful raised bed on the Knockadoon side of the village was admired.

## **Tidiness:**

The village generally gives a neat and ordered appearance. The adjudicator noted your concerns in relation to the appearance of unoccupied houses. Perhaps you could obtain the permission of their owners in order to paint these up, which would certainly be a short term solution to the problem. A stone ruin was noted on the Youghal approach and the adjacent rendered wall appeared to be in need of some attention. The telephone box was in good condition, with shining glass doors. A whitewashed outbuilding on the Knockaddon side of the village should be repainted before next year's competition, including its tin roof in a traditional red colour. Messy yard areas should be screened off from public view. Weed control was a problem to kerbsides on the Knockadoon approach to the village and to kerbsides on the Youghal side of the village.

## **Residential Areas:**

The red thatched roofed cottage on the Knockadoon side of the village was admired for its magnificent garden, forming a combination of neat, ordered areas and more natural appearing ones. One or two boundary walls on the Knockadoon Road were in need of some attention before next year's competition, although the houses on this approach were mostly in good condition. The attractive modern houses in the village centre opposite Clifford's are most colourful and well maintained.

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

The traditional square signs at both ends of the village were admired and their retention is to be commended. On both approach roads, grassy banks and hedgerows had been cut back, but the dead grass had not been removed. Do ensure that you consider bird nesting times when managing approach roads. In terms of signage, the children crossing sign could have been in better condition and road surfaces on the Youghal Road were not the best.

**General Impression:**

Ballymacoda is an attractive rural village which is, for the most part, well maintained. Do ensure for next year's competition that you formulate a work programme outlining your plans for the future development of the village.