

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Beal Atha An Ghaorthaid**

Ref: **483**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **200**

Category: **A**

Date: **08/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	19	20
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>196</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Coiste Forbartha has certainly been extremely busy over the number of years since the adjudicator was last fortunate enough to visit this centre. It was good to note you had received a grant for urban and village renewal. The provision of two FAS workers must also be extremely helpful to your work. Ballingearry is certainly a very interesting centre with a wealth of fascinating historical features and structures.

### The Built Environment:

In its prominent location on approaching the village O'Corcora's looked extremely fresh in pink. The church in its central location and Centra were also extremely fresh, as was Annie's Cafe and Scoil Mhuire. The Udaras na Gaeltachta premises were well maintained and the Post Office was quite fresh. By and large, both public and commercial premises were well cared for on the day. However, one prominent building on the hilltop opposite Udaras na Gaeltachta looked quite neglected, in comparison. The Forge is to be the subject of a conservation project which is, of course, highly commendable. The swimming pool was very fresh but its side wall was cracked and this should be repaired. Do ensure that traditional vernacular buildings retain their plastered finish. These buildings in Irish villages are generally supposed to be rendered and the removal of its outer surface is not only incorrect from a conservation point of view but may also lead to practical problems of water penetration.

## **Landscaping:**

The Famine Pot in its prominent location was simply presented. Pairc ui Choill with its water feature, stone walls and gates was well maintained, on the outskirts of the village. The new park is certainly an interesting development with its use of indigenous trees and the varied work of local craftsmen. However, weeds were evident to the boundary wall to the roadside and this should be sorted out before next year's competition. Incidental landscaped spaces throughout the village were generally well cared for on the day.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Your work in this category of the competition is certainly to be commended. The use of planting in the new park, that is local to the area is to be highly commended. You have obviously created a marvellous natural habitat for frogs, birds and small mammals. The mini nature reserve at the river is also a fine initiative and the associated study made by the scouts. Your proximity to the O'Sullivan Beara Walking and Cycling route is certainly fortunate.

## **Litter Control:**

You have identified the large number of summer students as a problem in regard to this aspect of the competition. Although you have provided a large number of bins, the standard in this category of the competition was extremely bad on the day, particularly near schools and by fast food outlets.

## **Tidiness:**

Weed control was generally good on the day, although one or two outbreaks were noted at the base of telegraph poles and to the roadside of the new park. Directional signs at the crossroads were extremely grubby and will need to be washed down.

## **Residential Areas:**

The relatively new houses on the Killarney Road were admired, with their stone and rendered facades in bright colours. There were many floral displays to houses in the village centre which contributed well to this category of the competition. A magnificent garden by the Park of the Spirit, with a variety of colourful flowers, was greatly admired, as were the colourful terrace of houses in the village centre with their raised gardens. Another attractive garden was noted opposite O'Corcora's. The senior citizens housing was noted and admired. Some magnificent gardens and stone walls on the Inchegeela Road looked well.

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

The new signs in Irish with their Celtic motifs were admired. On the Baile Bhuirne Road, ferns were noted in the hedgerows. Although this road had been cut back in a number of locations, the rest of this approach was quite overgrown. The square traditional sign on this road was admired. The Inchegeela Road is a long lead into the village which makes it quite difficult to maintain. Despite this, it was maintained to a high standard. Perhaps the concrete post and rail fence in this location could, in time, be replaced with indigenous hedging.

## **General Impression:**

Ballingeary is certainly a very interesting centre, which has seen many changes since the adjudicator's last visit. The new park with its unusual features such as living willow hedge is certainly an interesting initiative and one that will be of great interest to visitors and locals alike. Keep up the good work.

