

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballydehob**

Ref: **535**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **239**

Category: **B**

Date: **04/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	24
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	239	234

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballydehob is a very attractive town located on a beautiful estuary that is dominated by a fine example of railway architecture - the 12 Arch Bridge. The adjudicator would like to thank you for the excellent map, book of photographs and the Action Plan document. You are extremely well focused on your key objectives for the town and you are making excellent progress. A committee of just 19 people does seem rather small for such a large area, but the general support that your work has within the community is critical for your continued success.

The Built Environment:

Overall, it is extremely satisfying to view the built environment in Ballydehob, there are so many good examples of good presentation. Buildings that caught the eye include D. Coughlan, and C. O'Sullivan Victualler. On adjudication day work was underway on the re-development of the old school. It is good that such an appropriate new use has been found for this building. Like so many other towns in West Cork, Ballydehob is experiencing much new development, for example on the Schull and Skibbereen roads. Hopefully, appropriate landscaping plans are part of these developments. At the new car park near the national school, the bank on the left just before needs to be trimmed back, while at the community school, the plinth needs to be re-painted - is green the best colour here? Near here, the kerbing at the water-side needs to be re-painted white. The playground was excellently presented as was St. Brigid's School. The Catholic church is a dominant building on the hill overlooking the estuary and a good colour choice has been made here. The

up-dated flood lighting for the bridge was a big undertaking, but a very worthwhile project. The Danno Mahony Monument adds an interesting feature at this road junction and the associated landscaping has matured very well. The use of strong colours on buildings in the main street is highly successful, and there are just a few buildings remaining to be re-painted.

Landscaping:

There are many examples of extremely good landscaping in Ballydehob. The new work at the community park and at the community hall looks really well and adds much colour to this area. The area surrounding the tennis courts is also being well maintained. The adjudicator agrees totally with your views in regard to the bottle bank. A new location must be found without delay. As an interim measure, could this facility be screened from the tennis courts and from the front with an entrance at the end facing the 12 Arch Bridge?

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Ballydehob has one of the finest town centre wildlife locations in the county. The introduction of ducks to the estuary is an excellent initiative, as is the flora and fauna information board. This could be displayed in a number of different locations, such as the car park by the river and by the bridge.

Litter Control:

Ballydehob has much through-traffic and for a town of its size litter control is extremely good; the regular clean-ups are bringing results. Hopefully the present financial problems in regard to the under-grounding of cabling will be resolved. This will be a really excellent development. Congratulations to Ballydehob on doing so well in the Inter County Litter Competition. Some litter was noted in the car park opposite the Bantry junction.

Tidiness:

At the entrance to the car park, at the public toilets, and at the entrance to the Community Park, the steel poles need to be painted a bright colour. The access road to the GAA property needs to be tidied up and banks and verges attended to. The car park area is quite untidy. There is a lot of weed growth, piles of gravel and a piece of machinery. The building is also in need of painting. The roof of the building with the green corrugated iron near the river bridge needs to be re-painted green. While the Church of Ireland church itself was beautifully presented, the low boundary wall and railing at the roadside needs to be painted. Perhaps the existing wall colour is not the most appropriate. The railing should be painted also, perhaps in matt black. Generally many road-sign poles need to be re-painted and directional signs in many cases need to be washed.

Residential Areas:

The new housing developments were visited and noted. There are so many examples of excellently presented private houses, such as those on the Schull and the Durrus roads. In the main street there are also many examples of excellent private house presentation, though a few properties are in need of re-painting. Some private house road boundary walls are in need of re-painting. Some fine examples of well maintained hedging was noted, especially on the Durrus road. Low stone walls are a feature of Ballydehob and many private house owners have used natural stone in their houses or in boundary walls.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Schull approach, the town sign is partially hidden by growth and verges and banks needed attention. Long grass was falling out into the roadway here. The new car park on School Road has been nicely finished off. On the Bantry approach, attractive banks were noted just before the road junction. However, just opposite, at the Schull/Crookhaven sign a pile of gravel was noted and the

banks and verges here need attention. By any standards the Skibbereen approach road is highly impressive and gives a great introduction to the town nestling on the estuary below. The planting and grassed areas here are really superb - well done to all involved! Much work on verges and banks is required on the Durrus approach road. The back of the town sign is badly rusted and needs attention.

General Impression:

Ballydehob gives the overall impression of being looked after by a community that really cares about environmental presentation. There is also an important sense of unity in regard to environmental presentation and the visual effect of strong colours in the main street. It was a pleasure to adjudicate Ballydehob.

Second Round Adjudication:

Signage in the town centre and at the junction with the Bantry Road was in need of washing, as it was stained by red algae growth. As mentioned by the First Adjudicator, the recycling bins could be screened from public view or relocated to a less obtrusive spot-perhaps by the community centre building? The litter bin at the community park and that in front of Levis' Bar were overflowing, giving the impression that a more frequent collection is required. Some flaky houses opposite Camier's Garage should be attended to before next year's competition. Discourage flyposting as this can give roads a very cluttered appearance. The Catholic church was well maintained. A mural to Rosie's gable end should be painted before next year's competition, as it appeared quite faded and is rather prominent from the road leading to the Gourmet Store. Do ensure that yard areas and alleyways are maintained to as high a standard as the main streets of the town. Ballydehob has continued to make steady progress in the competition over the last number of years. It's always a pleasure to visit this busy West Cork town.