

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyroan**

Ref: **229**

County: **Laois**

Mark: **189**

Category: **B**

Date: **24/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	
The Built Environment	40	26	
Landscaping	40	24	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	
Litter Control	40	33	
Tidiness	20	13	
Residential Areas	30	19	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	
General Impression	10	7	
TOTAL MARK	300	189	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome back to Tidy Towns. Good to read of your involvement with the various bodies who have been and will continue to be influential in your progress in the years ahead. Your tactic to prepare a development plan is an encouraging start as not only will it give you a perspective on how you would like to see your village develop, but also it will attract the views and aspirations of a representative group within your community.

The Built Environment:

The girls' school on the Spink road is well presented with fresh paint and maintained lawns. The grounds are fronted by a pick up point protected from the road traffic by a well maintained verge. The modern lines of Sue Ryder House attracts the eye, with its shrubberies and tidy car park to the front. The Church grounds are well presented with pleasant lawns. It is clean and tidy, perhaps the front wall could be freshened. The old Ballyroan National School forms the main street corner and looks quite well. The brightly coloured Delaney's Pub caught the eye, as did the derelict O' Nualains building. The National School on the Portlaoise end of the village is nicely presented with about half a dozen trees fronting school grounds. The Esso service station has a nice planter of flowers with stone pillars at each end and a stone planter with shrubs forming the central frontage. The Church of Ireland and its grave yard look well. The area opposite the church is growing wild. There are some splendid houses along the main street notably the white house beside Whelans lounge.

Landscaping:

The first thing to impress about Ballyroan is its fine road surfacing. Opposite the school a selection of trees screen an otherwise uninteresting wall. There is an attractive small park with band stand, the roof of which requires painting. The mature trees look well. It is nice to see the maturing silver beech fronting an otherwise open site on the main street. The main street's water pump feature set in stone planter is a delightful feature. Whelens pub has a couple of nice seats outside. There are also a couple of planters with floral displays along the main street close to the Community Hall. Some nice new trees and tubs of flowers have been placed to the left of the Community Hall car park.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Ballyroan is set in an idyllic wildlife habitat. The natural countryside, mature hedging and trees are in abundance. In addition, the ruined church and graveyard along with the river have considerable potential which should feature in your proposed 5 year plan. The plan should also cover the provision of an interpretative sign to indicate the range and location of wildlife 'sightings'.

Litter Control:

In general terms your litter programme seems to be working well. The clean road surface gives the village an ordered impression and an inspection day showed very little evidence of a litter problem.

Tidiness:

Just short of the main street junction there is a dump of builder's materials which should be properly stored. The Ballroan Community Hall would be much improved if doors and window frames were painted. It is disappointing to see the car park used as a temporary coach park. Adjacent to the Esso Station is an uninhabited house in need of maintenance. Wirescape is not too bad. There is an open area beside the post office which could be improved upon.

Residential Areas:

Residential properties, particularly along the Spink road are mature and are well maintained. Attractive gardens and cared for frontages were a feature. As indicated earlier, there are a number of fine dwellings along the main street, some presented in a very attractive manor.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Coming in from the Portlaoise side there are cut verges and colourful planter of flowers. Good use is made of trees to screen out houses here. On the road to Ballinakill there is a pleasant green area with a nicely painted low concrete fence.

General Impression:

Ballyroan has a lot to offer but more could be done to exploit its potential, particularly its wildlife. The proposed 5 year development plan will form a foundation not only for the future of the village, but will give a reference against which its progress can be measured.