

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballycommon**

Ref: **349**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **191**

Category: **A**

Date: **22/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	21	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	191	188

Overall Developmental Approach:

The twelve strong committee obviously takes a great interest in the development of the village. Your involvement with a variety of local groups is obviously paying dividends. You mention problems in relation to introducing additional landscaping. It is to be hoped that for next year's competition this will be successfully resolved. If not, perhaps you could outline in more detail the nature of the actual problems in an effort to reach a successful resolution?

The Built Environment:

Work was taking place on the day on refurbishing the stone wall and footpath mentioned in your application form. The Muintir na Tíre Hall was in bad condition again this year. Its sign was also in a state of poor repair with rusty drain pipes inset into the wall of the building and rusty gates. The thatched cottage was very well maintained and quite fresh. The school looked good, although some staining was evident to the boundary wall and tower. Therefore, these and the school building itself should be painted before next year's competition. The adjacent simple church was greatly admired and the Fleur de Lys hair salon was very well maintained.

Landscaping:

The Ballyartella Mill and riverside garden was admired. Perhaps more information could be given in

relation to the various displays that are visible and also some further effort made in terms of their presentation. As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, more landscaping is required in the village centre. Although the square timber planters by the Muintir na Tire hall were admired, more permanent planting is required throughout Ballycommon. In terms of commercial premises, areas such as the forecourt area of the Texaco Garage could be landscaped as at the moment it appears quite bare.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your work regarding the Slí Eala Walk is to be commended. The associated leaflet certainly makes interesting reading regarding the various wildlife that is to be seen, and the historical significance of the route.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was generally fine although, in a village of Ballycommon's size, even one or two papers can create a bad impression. Some papers were evident in a number of locations - along the school road, along the road to the mill and at the car park area.

Tidiness:

A rusty gate to a field beside the school created a bad impression. It is important that outbuildings are not neglected when considering overall presentation of properties - one on the Dromineer Road created a bad impression. Weed control was a problem in the car parking area at the Slí Eala Walk.

Residential Areas:

Some of the forecourt areas to the front of gardens on the Nenagh Road appeared quite weedy and neglected. One bungalow on the far side of the slip road to the school had a magnificent garden which was greatly admired. Otherwise houses along approach roads and in the village centre were well maintained on the day.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The standard in this category could have been better. Do try to strike a balance between approach roads having an over-manicured appearance and looking completely wild and overgrown. It is important to try and achieve a natural appearance. On the Nenagh Road it was quite overgrown - to such an extent that the speed limit sign was virtually obscured by overgrowth. The Dromineer Road was to a higher standard, where verges had been cut back and wild roses were evident in the hedgerows. The School Road was also quite overgrown, as was the road to the mill. However, it was noted that a yellow house in the latter location had been maintaining the area at the front of their property, and sported an attractive garden. Signage could have been to a higher standard. Directional signs in the village centre appeared quite rusty and the "children crossing" sign sported some green algae growth.

General Impression:

Ballycommon is an attractive village which is obviously steeped in historical significance. The Tidy Towns Committee shows evident interest in its future. Keep up the good work.