

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballycanew**

Ref: **216**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **223**

Category: **B**

Date: **07/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	41
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	24
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	28
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>220</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Congratulations on an excellent submission. Ballycanew Tidy Towns Committee is certainly a large one, which garners a high level of support from the local farmers and statutory bodies. We look forward to reading the infrastructure plan that you are endeavouring to get from Wexford County Council. Congratulations on your inclusion in the Urban and Village Renewal Scheme. Your three year programme made interesting reading - you obviously have a keen interest in the village's unique history. The before and after photographs were extremely informative and are a good record for you to have of your hard work. They also helps the adjudicator to see clearly the progress you have made over the years.

### The Built Environment:

Both churches and grounds were well maintained - the new railings at St. Mogue's Church were greatly admired. They have a very interesting form and character and are quite in keeping with the nature of the town. The adjudicator noted that the render had been removed from a building at the Ballyedmund junction. Do ensure that any buildings which were originally intended to be rendered remain as such. In terms of commercial premises, Percival's was well presented as was the Ramble Inn, Papa Rhodes Restaurant, Earle's Butchers and Breens Centra. The old national school looked quite charming with its stone wall to the front and new national school was well presented - its new drop-off area was noted. The work to the footpaths was admired and really does make a difference!

## **Landscaping:**

The adjudicator was interested to note your garden competition, which must prove to be an asset to the area. The landscaping of the Ounavarra Riverside Park is a marvelous initiative, incorporating as it does a traditional Mass Path. The fact that the river had been polluted, but now sports a wealth of wildlife including fish, otters, water hens and ducks is an excellent achievement. Do discourage the use of chains around landscaped features - simple bollards or boulders would be more suitable as a barrier to parking. Resist the temptation to gild the lily - a simple approach to presentation is always best. The silver birch trees in front of Glanbia are coming along nicely and the drop-off parking area to the school has been mentioned previously.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Your interest in this area of the competition is laudable. The adjudicator was pleased to note you had completed your survey on wildlife and the protection thereof. The cutting back of ditches and hedgerows at appropriate times to protect wildlife is also to be commended - but do ensure that in the meantime your roadsides do not look neglected! The meadow and orchard planned at the school, incorporating native Wexford apple trees will be a marvelous asset to the children. The keeping of their wildlife journals is another very good idea. The adjudicator noted the bird houses throughout the town on adjudication day.

## **Litter Control:**

Your survey on litter should be of benefit when tackling this aspect of the competition - the involvement of the junior Tidy Towns committee is to be commended. Litter control on the day could have been better, but seemed to have improved from last year's adjudication. Litter was noted along approach roads on The Harrow Road and the Ferns Road. More litter was noted at the bridge by the river and the odd paper along the main streets of the town. Your litter slogans throughout were admired.

## **Tidiness:**

The adjudicator was pleased to note that your regular sweeping and weeding seems to be paying off. Weed control seemed to have improved somewhat since the second adjudication day last year - although some were noted at the base of kerbs at the Village Gate housing estate and throughout the town. Do discourage advertising hoardings as they can give roads - and indeed the town centre - a very cluttered appearance.

## **Residential Areas:**

Your ongoing maintenance of trees and existing green areas is to be applauded. The Ounavarra Park Estate was fine, although some houses were not as well maintained as others. Ballycanew Court is a new development. Perhaps the bare concrete wall leading into the estate could be improved upon as, at the moment, it looks quite unattractive. The Village Gate Estate was well maintained. A number of grubby boundary walls on the Ferns Road created a bad impression. Perhaps some of the houses along the road to the riverside park could extend their area of interest to the roadsides. This is an aspect of the competition which has paid off in other centres throughout the country.

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

The standard in this category of the competition could have been better. The stone "welcome" signs were admired and are quite charming. Along The Harrow Road the hedgerows and banks were extremely overgrown, but had been cut back further in. However the dead grass had yet to be removed. The road surfaces throughout were rather pot-holed. Hopefully, Wexford County Council

will be able to improve upon this situation in the not too distant future. The Ferns Road is a long lead into the town; its verges were quite overgrown and the "children crossing" sign was rather grubby. Do ensure when maintaining approach roads that they don't look neglected and uncared for. A natural appearance to these is best.

### **General Impression:**

Ballycanew is a community which shows a great interest in its town's historical significance and future. Much work has been done over the years and this work is continuing to pay dividends.