

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballycullane**

Ref: **112**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **235**

Category: **A**

Date: **06/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	36	36
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	235	230

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballycullane Tidy Village's Plan certainly makes extremely interesting reading. It was cross-referenced to your rolling three to five year plan and map, which indicates that a great deal of work has been done in the village over the last number of years. This has not gone unnoticed, as the village looked extremely well cared for on adjudication day. The historical connection with Tintern Abbey certainly makes interesting reading - perhaps you could consider putting together a leaflet on the history of the village. The adjudicator was disappointed to note that the old hall, weigh-bridge and pound had been demolished. These were obviously areas of significance to the village. Good luck with your future work.

The Built Environment:

Wallace's was fine as were the school and grounds. Perhaps the playground area could be softened with some tree planting in the future. The post office was extremely fresh and a yellow boundary wall looked extremely cheerful in the village centre. The sign at the garage was quite grubby, although the creeper-clad wall should pay dividends in time. Power's Pub front facade was fine, although its gable did not appear to be to the same standard. It is important that gables are not neglected when considering overall presentation, as they are obvious to the passer-by walking along the street. The church looked magnificent, especially its beautifully maintained grounds and the garda station will need painting before next year's competition.

Landscaping:

The concrete fences throughout the village had been freshly whitewashed. The hedges that you have planted are a marvelous initiative and will pay dividends, in time, to the overall appearance of the village. The attractively planted beds along the roadside were coming along well. The pump beside the graveyard was simply presented and the trough filled with geraniums was admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

This is an area of the competition in which Ballycullane is most fortunate, given its location and proximity to a wealth of natural amenities. Get the local school children involved in order to draw up a record of the wildlife habitats in their locality. Perhaps this could be incorporated with a nature trail. Do try to enlist the help of local experts in this regard also.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was good. However, some litter was evident adjacent to the stone wall at the recycling area and more further in, at the housing estate. Some of the litter bins were not in the best of condition and should be washed, sanded down and re-painted before next year's competition.

Tidiness:

The village gives a very neat and ordered appearance to the visitor. One minor bone of contention would be a window box filled with dead plants above Power's Pub.

Residential Areas:

The new houses on the Adamstown Road were admired, although perhaps the use of brick gives them a rather suburban appearance. Perhaps the committee could consider employing an architect to give advise on any further planning applications to ensure that new houses are in keeping with the traditions of an Irish country village. An attractive garden filled with easter lillies near the bridge was greatly admired, as was a garden filled with lupins opposite the church. St. Martin's Park was fine, although some boundary walls were in need of attention. The planting and public spaces were very well maintained.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Adamstown Road was well maintained and the hedgerows had been cut back. Do consider bird nesting times when cutting hedgerows. The Garrycullen Road appeared to be overgrown in comparison, with cow parsley appearing in the banks and hedgerows. The new GAA clubhouse appeared to be under construction along this road.

General Impression:

Ballycullane is an extremely pretty village, which is being well maintained. Much interest is evidently being taken by Ballycullane Tidy Village's Committee and the local community, in order to maintain the village to its current high standard and monitor its future development.

Second Round Adjudication:

It is the rural ambiance with the meandering road (which by its very nature slows the traffic) which gives Ballycullane its special charm. In general a very tidy appearance prevailed with merely isolated blemishes such as one particularly untidy yard and one vacant site. It is important that

work on Somers Way (including road surfacing) is completed as soon as possible. In St. Martins Park those boundaries with painted front walls looked best; it is a pity about the vandalised trees in the newer part! The recycling bins area was commendably neat this time. You are clearly most interested in the landscaped areas and floral adornment in general – evidence was everywhere, ranging from the smallest house to commercial and public buildings, and to public open spaces. Complementing the landscaping was much fresh paint. The decorated water pump near the railway bridge was particularly enjoyed!