

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyhooly**

Ref: **16**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **205**

Category: **A**

Date: **10/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	205	200

Overall Developmental Approach:

This is a most pleasant village in a unique location overlooking the River Blackwater. The village has many attractive features and has the potential to make considerable progress in the Competition. It would be to the committee's advantage and for the community if a 3 - 5 year action plan was drawn up for Tidy Towns. In this way work could be undertaken on a priority basis and results would become clear for the whole community to see.

The Built Environment:

There are some fine buildings in the vicinity of the village. The Catholic church is excellently presented along with the adjoining church grounds. The church of Ireland church is also a lovely building. The Community Hall is well maintained as is the school building. The business premises in the village including the attractive Oifig an Phoist were neatly presented.

Landscaping:

The shubbery planted along the Fermoy approach looked well. The most prominent planting in the

village is at the "Park" area close to the entrance to the castle. This area is well maintained with the nearby grass area neatly trimmed. The use of colourful flower tubs in the vicinity of the church was impressive. The mature woodland in the vicinity adds to this pleasant village. The castle grounds, some of which are visible from the village, add further to the overall effect.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Being so close to the Blackwater river, the community is fortunate in that habitat is provided naturally for many wildlife species. Similarly, the mature woodland in the vicinity of the village provides habitat for other species. However, when the Tidy Towns Association draws up a plan for the future, it is advised that consideration be given to include wildlife as one of the areas where progress can be made by identifying and developing designated sites.

Litter Control:

In order to make progress in litter control it is essential to create an awareness of the problem. This matter should also feature in any coordinated plan for the future. It would also be advisable to involve the school pupils in some way as such an approach creates awareness at an early age. At present, the litter situation in the village is quite good but it was disappointing to see a considerable amount of litter in the vicinity of the Community Hall - this would need to be monitored in the future. Other areas of the village were almost completely free of litter.

Tidiness:

The village was generally very tidy. The entrance to and the grounds adjoining the Clubhouse premises in the Ballyhooly Community sports field was very tidy and well maintained. Also the area in the vicinity of the "Top" Service station was quite tidy. The general area in the vicinity of the entrance to the castle and the nearby green area was very tidy. Also in the vicinity of the church and school there was a good level of tidiness. In the vicinity of the Post Office too and business premises a good level of tidiness prevailed. The area in the vicinity of the Bottle Bank was tidy.

Residential Areas:

The new housing development taking place at the Fermoy approach to the village was noted. There were many examples of well cared for houses and gardens on all approach roads to the village. Houses within the village were neat and attractively presented. The houses at Liam Burke Terrace were pleasantly presented and the use of colourful window boxes here added much colour.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach road from Kildorrery was quite well maintained but the place name sign for Kildorrery was in need of repainting. The condition of footpaths from this road towards the village centre was very good. Stone walls in and around the village looked well. The grass verges on the road from Castletownroche were neatly trimmed and the fine stretches of stone walls looked impressive. The mural depicting work of the old forge against a lovely old stone wall is impressive. The display map relating to the Blackwater Way, which has been created in this area of the village is very useful and informative. The Carrignavar/Glanworth wooded road leading to the village is most pleasant. The roundabout near Ballyhooly Lodge was very clean and tidy. In the tree planted area near the entrance to the castle there is a display unit giving details of "Ballyhooly Parish" which is a Tidy Towns Committee initiative which provides very interesting information about the area.

General Impression:

This is a very attractive village close to the Blackwater River. The community has made much progress but there is great potential for further improvement. It is hoped that some of the comments in this report will be of some assistance for the future. If a planned approach is adopted, progress will be made within a shorter timescale.