

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinadee**

Ref: **101**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **214**

Category: **A**

Date: **23/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	214	211

Overall Developmental Approach:

The information provided with the application form was helpful. The three-year plan, while identifying some issues that will be worked upon is useful - it would need to be more detailed. For example, specify all work that is planned, how it will be prioritised, when, by whom and how it will be achieved. Such a plan would enable an assessment to be made of progress each year and would be a motivating force for all.

The Built Environment:

The Church of Ireland occupies a pivotal position at the centre of the village junction and looks very well with its fine stonewalls and the nearby Olympic memorial. The grotto is an interesting shape and acts as the main focal point of the village centre. The Catholic Church is nicely positioned with views of the very picturesque riverside. The Catholic Church, as mentioned last year, is showing early signs of staining. Stonewalls play an important role in the village, many of which add character to the village scene. The school looks well and the murals are interesting within the school building. The wall at the roadside is a little stained and if this could be faced with stone - like the nearby wall - it would be an attractive addition. The couple of derelict houses - one near the Catholic Church and one a little above, will hopefully get some form of attention to remedy the situation. The business premises are well tended.

Landscaping:

There has been much emphasis on colour – the planting of summer bedding and containerised plants. This helps to give a sparkle to the village. The more permanent planting is vital to give an all year round effect and a solid structure to the landscape. The planting of trees by the riverside is good and some more planting at the school would be helpful. The area of grass beside the Church of Ireland (it being very central) would benefit from a landscape feature. Individual gardens do much to provide attractiveness in the village and well done to those responsible. The riverside garden is attractive and the picnic tables and stonework make for a very pleasant seating area.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The development of a wildflower garden, as noted in your plan, is a good idea. A riverside walk would also make a very fine feature for enjoying the natural environment. The information boards are very helpful at the riverside.

Litter Control:

Litter is fairly well controlled although some instances of litter were noted in the village near the church carpark by the riverside. The litterbin is very clean and prominent and hopefully is used and emptied regularly. Cleanups are commendable and help to create an awareness of the need to be careful with litter.

Tidiness:

The village is tidy. The dilapidated buildings are a little unhelpful to this cause, as is the fence to the front of the green area by the Church of Ireland. Back areas that are visible from the road front should be reasonably tidy as they also contribute to marks in this section.

Residential Areas:

There is a small number of residences in the village and this creates a very good community spirit. There is good upkeep apparent and it is obvious that people take great pride in their homes.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road surface towards the school is in need of resurfacing - this would be a welcome improvement in the village. The church carpark is well marked out and offers a great parking facility. The bridge is an attractive feature. The trees on the approach roads and the hedgerows form a nice approach to the village without interfering in the natural countryside.

General Impression:

Ballinadee has a unique village style with a small number of residents and the yet has all the essential components – churches, pub, shop, business premises and housing. The area by the river gives a pleasant aspect and is hopefully enjoyed by many.