

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballincollig**

Ref: **560**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **228**

Category: **F**

Date: **23/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	41
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	28	27
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>223</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballincollig Tidy Towns committee is to be commended for their efforts to develop so many aspects of a very sprawling, diverse and changing area. The first thought is that there should be a vigorous recruitment for membership as the small number of five could be greatly enhanced by a larger number. The recruitment of young people is very important so that they can learn and contribute to the community in which they live. The By pass will make a major difference to Ballincollig. The Development plan 2004 is a fine document and many of the pertinent issues are dealt with in this report. The development of Murphy's barracks and the By pass offers great challenges to the committee and the community in general.

### The Built Environment:

There are a wide variety of building features through the town. The industrial and business premises are generally well presented. Carparking and the traffic these create is enormous. The work of organising competitions is excellent as it allows for interest and developments in each of the sectors. Many of the shops have made considerable efforts to enhance their appearance. The many shops units tucked in off the main street create a pleasant atmosphere which will be further enhanced with reduced traffic volumes as a result of the opening of the By-pass. Stonewall features look well in many places. The appearance at the Poulavone roundabout gives a very important character to the entrance of the town. Large industrial buildings, such as Logitech, have emerged behind the main street which change the face of the town. The fire station looks very well and the Reel cinema is

nicely positioned. The colour schemes on the shop fronts through the main street give a very cheerful appearance.

### **Landscaping:**

There is a number of good landscape features through the town. The Westgate wall feature is very attractive and the roundabouts are well treated with the very attractive flowering. The many individual features of containerised plants play an important part. The trees have matured well along the main street and these add greatly to the streetscape. Any opportunity for more tree plantings should be availed of as they add enormous character to any area. The landscaping in the large housing estates has included many trees and this in time will pay great dividends. The tree planting to the front courtyard of the Reel cinema is attractive. Some substantial plantings are needed in the industrial areas particularly as mentioned above- by the Logitech buildings and surrounding areas. Entrances to estates, entrances to industrial or shopping areas are always enhanced by good planting schemes as they soften the harshness of the buildings and create a welcoming approach – this has been availed of in Ballincollig in a number of incidences.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The regional park is a marvelous asset and can offer much under this heading. The failure of your commissioned person to give a report on wild life possibilities is disappointing but hopefully progress will now be made. The provision of bat boxes and the information about bats and their boxes is interesting and hopefully further activities will follow.

### **Litter Control:**

While it is acknowledged that your efforts in this regard are enormous – it is a fact of life that continuous efforts have to be made to keep litter at bay. The schemes with schools are admirable and the work of the litter warden contributes greatly. There is a small amount of litter to be noted in car parks in particular and hopefully that will disappear when people become more and more aware of the value in keeping the place litter free.

### **Tidiness:**

There is a good level of tidiness through the town. The new industrial sites may need better finishing. The area in Baker Street seems a little uncared for. Kerbside weeds can be troublesome and the purchase of a knapsack sprayer is a good approach. The competitions organised by the committee are a great help in promoting a better level of tidiness. The work both at the By Pass and the town centre will cause some disruption and untidiness but in the end the result will be very positive.

### **Residential Areas:**

There are a vast number of residential areas around the town. It is understandable that with so many rented houses and accommodation the work of the tidy towns committee becomes difficult, as the pride in ownership may not be the same in rented accommodation. There is good landscaping at the housing estates and they look very well. A visit around a large number of these suggests that there is further opportunity for tree planting in many open greens. A little investment in this will be rewarded greatly in the future. The competitions also are very helpful. Educational courses in home and garden care could offer another approach to improvement, as many young people are unaware of the needs and skills of maintaining a house and garden.

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

The main street is very busy with traffic. Parking is allowed in places where, when a truck comes along congestion results. It would be wise to make suggestions about traffic, parking and provision

for pedestrians in the new scheme that will result from the opening of the By Pass. The additional information submitted with the entry form very clearly identifies the roads problems and observation of the situation hopefully will give good results.

**General Impression:**

Ballincollig is going through an exciting transformation. Efforts to retain the identity of the town should be helped by the By Pass. The focus will also move to the Town centre and more people will visit the town. Pedestrian friendly schemes will help to retain the core of the town.