

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballycotton**

Ref: **487**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **208**

Category: **B**

Date: **25/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	31
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	24	24
Tidiness	20	17	18
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	26
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>205</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

There is a considerable amount of building development work currently in progress in the village and surrounds and this is causing some disruption. The large tidy towns committee membership of 15 people is a great number which can facilitate great progress being made. The committee should keep a watchful eye on both planning applications and also work in progress to see that the sites are fully reinstated before the developers leave the site. An overall plan to outline the details of work that is intended over the next three to five years is a requirement of this part of the competition – but besides that, it would make great sense to prioritise objectives and place a framework of when, by whom and how everything can be achieved. This would give a yardstick against which progress could be measured annually and would also act as motivation.

### The Built Environment:

The terraced buildings in the main centre of the village are well painted and look very crisp. The interesting extended village style along the seafront makes the village unique and this factor needs to be kept in mind so that the best can be got from the village pattern. The two churches are looking very well and form a basic fabric and framework of the village. The Rockcliffe houses, Spanish Point Guest House, Bayview Hotel and Inn by the Harbour all look well. The school and thatched cottages also appear well. Individual houses along the road create an interesting variety of architectural styles and add to the uniqueness of the village. The harbour and surrounds look well as do the many stonewalls – some consisting of old style stonewall building techniques, many of these are partially

obscured by vegetation and could be revealed to good advantage. The stonewall in front of the Silver Strand development is attractive and is nicely reflected in the partial stone facing of the houses. The Garda station needs attention to painting as does the old Cliff Palace and the Public house opposite the Inn by the Harbour.

### **Landscaping:**

The grotto area is well presented although some renewal planting is needed in this area; greater attention to detail would also be welcome. The area of bank beyond the grotto is well planted. The area opposite the Catholic Church is attractively planted and gives a good impression. There are many garden plants overflowing from houses and this contributes greatly to the overall appearance of the village giving a casual yet effective approach. Seats and picnic tables at the cliff walk carpark and approach areas are welcome and allow for great use. Some of the older seating needs renewal.

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

The cliff walk and general seafront areas all around the village offer marvelous opportunity both to enjoy the birds of the area and the lovely array of wild flowers along the cliff walk. The roadside walls too offer a lovely range of wild flowers. It would be interesting to compile an inventory of these and use it as a opportunity to provide people with helpful knowledge. The old Church of Ireland grounds were interesting in this regard. The wildlife board at the cliff walk is helpful.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control is reasonably good within the village. There are many winding roads and places where litter can get trapped so the effort of keeping the village very clean offers a great challenge, which is being met well.

### **Tidiness:**

Some derelict buildings and buildings in need of attention present a challenge in this regard. The sheds on the approach road to the cliff walk and on entry to the village present a difficulty. Areas of weediness by pathways and buildings always need attention. There is also an accumulation of rubble along the roadside beyond the grotto. Building work in progress also causes some disruption to tidiness but this is temporary and should be resolved within a reasonable timeframe. Some benches, as mentioned above, are in need of attention near the cliff walk entrance.

### **Residential Areas:**

The residences are well scattered throughout the village apart from some terraces and the area close to the Catholic church. There is a good standard of home and garden care which contributes well to the overall appearance of the village. The Silver Strand development is interesting with innovative planting styles being used. The use of Fuchsia and Escallonia and New Zealand Flax and Hebes works well. Trees such as Sycamores. Pinus radiata and Cordylines should all do well in this seaside location.

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

Road surfaces appear to have been recently been upgraded. The surfaces are very smooth except for the road up to the church from the road below. The lack of footpaths through the main part of the village is worrying and cannot present a safe place for pedestrians.

### **General Impression:**

Ballycotton is a beautiful seaside village and the winding nature of the through road with the wide

array of housing types adds greatly to the village. Maintaining the natural stone walls and the flora should take priority when new buildings are in progress and retention of these rather than imposing sterile new walls would be a great help.