

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballymacoda**

Ref: **656**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **213**

Category: **A**

Date: **25/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	29
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	213	211

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballymacoda combines a number of different styles in its linear shaped village. The terraced village houses – some of which are being renovated; the shops; and the terraces of newer houses together with a most attractive red painted thatched house at the end of the village. The developments described in the letter accompanying the entry form, outline the work that has been completed and some items that are being planned. A more comprehensive document outlining the priorities for this year and the priorities year by year over the next three to five years as well as - how , when and by whom these plans will be fulfilled would help the committee to forge ahead and also provide a yardstick to measure progress

The Built Environment:

There is some building work in progress at the moment and there appears to be work about to start. Buildings through the village area are generally well maintained and well painted. Some derelict buildings are causing some challenges – one building on entry from the Youghal side and some along the way through the village. Stonewalls are an attractive feature of the village and they are used to good advantage through the village. The stonework at the bridges at the Knockdoon road are attractive and this whole area by the cross roads is very attractively presented. The Church is a fine building and has a lovely prominence in the village. Well-painted walls give a crisp appearance to the village

Landscaping:

Good care is taken with gardens and these contribute well to the overall appearance of the village. The containerised plantings give summer colour. The rose planting up at the Cross by the river are a lovely sight as is the garden of the thatched roof house. The picnic area and the areas by the cross roads are well treated and a credit to all who look after them. The birch trees were noted. The border at O'Keeffe's Cross is good and represents a very good effort, the plants will look well as they mature, as will the border at the top of the wall opposite the post office and the raised bed further along the road towards the picnic tables. The church grounds have been nicely landscaped; the steep bank presenting a great challenge.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

A wildlife project could be developed to ensure that a full appreciation is availed of the natural environment. This is particularly important for young people so they learn to appreciate the value of the natural environment and they will carry this with them through their lives.

Litter Control:

Litter control is well in hand and the recycle bins are prominently placed. Constant vigilance is needed to keep litter at bay.

Tidiness:

There is a reasonable level of tidiness in the village. Building work always causes some untidiness but this is temporary. Some derelict buildings and those needing attention cause challenges. Attention to detail of paintwork, gates, fences and railings are all important in the overall context.

Residential Areas:

Both the village centre and terraced houses on the Knockdoon road are well kept with good standards. Individual homes along the roadsides contribute well with their well tended gardens and houses. It is good that new houses appear to be being built in the village centre as this keeps life right in the centre and helps build the community

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces in general could be improved. Also where the road surface meets the side - roughness was noted in a number of places. Hopefully this can be remedied. There are some interesting wall roadside boundaries with native plants growing – these are attractive and worth retaining carefully. Good roadside cleaning is in place.

General Impression:

The village is interesting in that it combines a number of styles and there is a good standard of care and attention apparent.