

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballingeary**

Ref: **642**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **205**

Category: **A**

Date: **04/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	
The Built Environment	40	30	
Landscaping	40	26	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	
Litter Control	40	19	
Tidiness	20	13	
Residential Areas	30	23	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	
General Impression	10	8	
TOTAL MARK	300	205	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Coiste Forbartha have a good relationship with the local community. Your initiatives in relation to establishing new footpaths, planting of new trees and beech hedging and repairing of the Stepping Stone Bridge are all indeed to your credit. Ballingeary is steeped in historical significance, being the site of the last eviction in the country, having the first Irish college and the tallest standing stone in the country! Your plans for the future development of the town are to your credit. Good luck with your work on the Forge area in relation to developing it as the town's Heritage Centre.

The Built Environment:

The schools in the town generally looked well, of note being Scoil Mhuire. Colaiste na Mumhan was fresh although perhaps some further landscaping could be considered in this location to soften the somewhat harsh effect of its grounds. Annie's Café looked well, although some staining was evident below the sign. The post office was quite fresh and Paddy Quill's Woolen Market was well presented. The church looked well, in a strong mustard colour with attractive hanging baskets adjacent. Seartan's looked well as did O'Corcora's Food Market both of which were extremely fresh. The swimming pool wall had also been freshly painted. Do bear in mind that traditional vernacular buildings were intended to be rendered and therefore the removal of plaster from these buildings is not only incorrect from a conservation point of view but may also lead to problems with water penetration.

Landscaping:

There are two main areas of landscape in the town - one being the beautifully maintained park area on the Bantry approach, at the bend in the road with its stone wall surround. The village park - Casadh na Spraoide forms a contrast to this park, as it is left to grow naturally wild. This forms a very interesting contrast, in terms of the landscaping of the town. The famine pot was simply presented. There is scope for landscaping at the college, as previously mentioned and also at the crazy golf course which also looks somewhat bare. The attractive planting to the top of the stone wall at Udaras na Gaeltachta on the main street was admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildlife area formed by Casadh na Spraoide with its growing willow hedge is a marvelous initiative in order to encourage wildlife to the town. The hedgerows had been cut on the Inchigeela Road - do bear in mind bird nesting times when undergoing this type of maintenance.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day could have been better. Litter was evident to the park at Casadh na Spraoide and a lot was evident by the National School. The adjudicator was disappointed to note the two chip vans in the main street and these may be contributing to the problem!

Tidiness:

Although the town gave a generally neat and ordered appearance on the day, there were one or two problem areas. Building materials should be removed once work is complete - some were evident to the park area on the Bantry approach. Weeds were also a problem at this approach to the town, at the bridge. A yard area with a rusty trailer on this side of the village created a bad impression and the adjacent sheds needed to be freshly painted. Weed control was also a problem at the school and the entrance to Cuan Barra. The renovation of the forge will improve the appearance in this location greatly. The pedestrian gate to Udaras na Gaeltachta was quite rusty and will need to be improved before next year's competition.

Residential Areas:

Houses within the town and along approach roads were generally well maintained. The magnificent floral display including red montbretia to the house adjacent to the Casadh na Spraoide was greatly admired in its prominent location. The attractive raised gardens at Ardan Sheamuis ui Sheaghda were greatly admired. Construction work was taking place to a new house adjacent to Seartan's Pub. An attractive garden at Cuan Barra was well maintained as was the orange house at the crossroads.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The attractive square traditional sign in Irish on the Bantry Road was greatly admired. The road surface on the Inchigeela Road was quite potholed although the new stone walling was admired. This road affords the visitor a view to some absolutely magnificent scenery. However, some of the banks on this road required seeding as they just appeared to be bare earth and directional signs were quite grubby.

General Impression:

Ballingeary is an attractive town whose residents show an obvious care in its future. Good luck with your future plans and do try to seriously tackle the issue of litter before next year's competition!

