

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinspittle**

Ref: **102**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **192**

Category: **A**

Date: **24/01/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	
The Built Environment	40	28	
Landscaping	40	29	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	
Litter Control	40	30	
Tidiness	20	10	
Residential Areas	30	23	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	
General Impression	10	7	
TOTAL MARK	300	192	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballinspittle Tidy Town's Committee is indeed welcome back into the competition after an absence of six years! The adjudicator was disappointed to note that you are having difficulty getting local people involved in your work. Perhaps you should approach the many new residents that have moved into the village in the last number of years in order to garner their support? Many Tidy Towns Committees find that new residents to a village are very eager to help and become involve in their work. It is also important - especially after an absence of so long - to include your three to five year work programme, in order that the adjudicators can assess how you are progressing with your plans. Do be sure to include this with next year's entry.

The Built Environment:

The school and its well maintained grounds were well presented but some painting will need to be done before next year's competition - in particular, the rear buildings and the boundary wall. Nash's is an attractive traditional shop front. The Garda Station was very fresh and the church and its grounds were extremely well maintained. Both supermarkets looked well, as did the Post Office. Stone walling to the entrance area to the GAA grounds was admired although some staining was evident to building. Perhaps some landscaping could be considered in this location to soften up its rather harsh appearance from the roadside?

Landscaping:

Colourful displays of daisies and other flowers were evident at the Clonakilty crossroads. The hanging baskets on the bridge were admired. The adjudicator was pleased to note some screening, in the form of tree planting, had taken place at the farm supply buildings on the approach from the grotto. The grotto was extremely well maintained and the grass area opposite has continued the practice of maintaining well cut grass verges leading to a more natural effect on the grassy banks, which has proved most effective.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator was disappointed to note that you had left this section of the application form blank! As noted in the report for 2001 the village is very fortunate in regard to its areas of woodlands and small stream. Has any progress been made in relation to the suggestions made by the adjudicator in 2001? This is an aspect of the competition which has become more important of the years, and will continue to do so.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control in the town centre was generally good. However, some was evident on the road to the grotto and quite a lot of papers and a biscuit tin were evident at the entry to the wooded area at Clonakilty / Garretstown Roads junction. The litter bin at the top of the main street, at its junction with the road to the grotto appeared quite flaky and should be repainted before next year's competition.

Tidiness:

Outbuildings and rear areas were a problem in this category of the competition. Outbuildings to the rear of Nash's and Corner House pubs will need attention before next year's competition - re-whitewashing in the case of the latter. A storage area adjacent to the former should be screened off before next year's competition. Although the public toilets by the grotto were generally in good condition some staining was evident to them.

Residential Areas:

The railing to the houses along the roadside opposite the school appeared quite rusty in a number of locations. Quite a number of new houses have been constructed in the village since your last entry into the competition. These are generally quite in keeping with the character of the village but will need to develop their landscaped areas, in order to reach the standard set by the more mature houses. Some charming michaelmas daisies overgrowing a stone boundary wall on the Bandon Road were greatly admired and similar landscaping had taken place to the house next door. An attractive cottage with Easter lilies on the road to the grotto was also admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The grass verges on the Clonakilty Road had been cut back and this road was well maintained. On the Bandon Road wild foxgloves, wild roses and ferns were admired and this approach affords the visitor an attractive view to the church in the village beyond. In terms of street furniture, the directional signs at the centre of the village will need some attention before next year's competition. This seemed to be a problem the last time you entered the competition also. The door to the phone box on Main Street should be replaced as it is currently missing.

General Impression:

Ballinspittle is an attractive village which is maintained to a good standard. Before next year's competition it is important that you formulate a three or five year work programme in order that the

adjudicators can assess your progress as the years go by and establish what your plans are in regard to the future of the village.