

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Balbriggan**

Ref: **66**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **197**

Category: **E**

Date: **28/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	33
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	26	24
Tidiness	20	11	10
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	197	192

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your application and back up documentation. Your map accompanying your application was of great assistance on the day of adjudication. It is wonderful to see the work that your committee has done with only four members. The support and enthusiasm for the enhancement and improvement of Balbriggan by your committee is encouraging. It might be an idea to get more of the community involved in your efforts and in particular school children and local businesses.

The Built Environment:

Most of the buildings in Balbriggan were well presented on the day of adjudication. It was noted that there are some uncared for buildings on the main street which detracts from its otherwise well cared for appearance. The Spicers Building and Brownes Butchers were unsightly - with further development of the town over the coming years perhaps these buildings will also be improved.

Landscaping:

There are some lovely landscapes in your town. The planters in the town add a welcome splash of colour to your streetscape. It is disheartening to see that you receive no practical assistance from the local community or statutory bodies for your efforts. Perhaps it might be an idea to have some

fund raising events over the winter months to heighten awareness of your committees efforts in the competition. It is also a good idea to get local school children involved in your programme of development. The gardens in many of the residences throughout Balbriggan are very well presented.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There are many areas for expansion for your village in this area of the competition and we look forward to your proposed areas for action in your schedule of actions for the future. It is a wonderful idea to involve the local school in projects that heighten awareness of your natural amenities and encourage more wildlife into your locality.

Litter Control:

There were minor incidences of litter in evidence on the day of adjudication in Balbriggan. The main streets were virtually litter free, however there were some side streets which had litter in evidence. It was noted that there was quite a lot of traffic throughout the town. Additionally, some building works can make this area of the competition difficult for your committee. Your committee is to be congratulated on its efforts to keep your town litter free.

Tidiness:

The school grounds were generally well kept following on from the adjudicator's comments last year, although there are some areas for improvement there and it might be an idea to meet with the school to see what areas can be improved upon and where the schoolchildren could get involved. There were also some areas where weeds and overgrowth were in evidence on the day of adjudication, particularly opposite the graveyard and Westbrook Park. There were minor incidences of graffiti to be seen as well thereby detracting from Balbriggan's otherwise tidy appearance.

Residential Areas:

There are many lovely residences throughout Balbriggan with well maintained grounds and lovely flower filled gardens. As suggested in last years adjudication report, it might be an idea to have a garden competition organised perhaps with the sponsorship of a local business. This is a good way to get more people involved in the competition itself and it also serves to heighten awareness of your efforts among the local population.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All approach roads, streets and back areas were well kept with one or two minor exceptions. One exception being the lack of obvious signposting/welcome signs. It might be an idea to get in contact with the council in relation to this.

General Impression:

The General impression of Balbriggan is of a developing town; there are a lot of changes happening within your locality. It is clear you are eager to have necessary improvements completed and we would suggest that in order to have your programme for improvement effectively carried out that you work more closely with the council, local businesses and the community. We wish you every success for your future plans.