

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballybrack**

Ref: **431**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **211**

Category: **E**

Date: **13/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	26
Litter Control	40	23	22
Tidiness	20	11	11
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	21
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	211	207

Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome to the 2004 Tidy Towns Competition. The committee submitted an excellent three year development programme along with an exceptionally detailed map of the end phase village improvement on Church Road and a comprehensive entry form. The larger 25.344 Inch Scale was confusing on the day of adjudication as it took in the town lands of Killiney and Loughlinstown which for this year will be adjudicated as part of the Ballybrack entry. The committee should consult the Tidy Towns Unit of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government regarding this matter. The second Urban map 1/10000 was very useful and well marked.

The continued co-operation with statutory bodies and litter wardens should be commended and kept going; it really has had some positive results for the area as a whole. It is also noted that the tidy towns committee also work closely with other local community groups. The schools could also be encouraged to become involved in tidy towns by getting involved in Green Schools organised by an Taisce.

The Built Environment:

The presentation and maintenance of the buildings in Ballybrack on the day of adjudication was quite good. The shopping area around Tesco's on the Ralahine Road was nicely kept. The shopping area where Marino Furniture is located on Church road looked well. Businesses should be encouraged to care for the area in front of their premises as well. There is a nicely paved

monument area across from Mace. The Ramblers' Rest was nicely painted and well kept. The Igo Inn was well presented. Loughlinstown Parish Church looked well. The industrial estate could do with some brightening up. Work done at the leisure centre and the shopping area around the Lough Inn is noted. At the entrance wall to the R.C. Church on Church Row, some graffiti and railings could do with some attention. Church Road has pleasant street furniture. Most roads have good signage however the area would benefit from welcome stones or signs (making sure to use bilingual signs where possible). The research accumulated for the 3 year plan and the 2nd phase village improvement will improve the built environment in Ballybrack immensely.

Landscaping:

There are some nice mature trees on the Wyatteville approach road and Shangannagh Road and it is good to see that their preservation are included in your plan. The roundabout area at the junction of Cromlach Fields would benefit from landscaping to make the approach more welcoming. Make sure to include native blooms for planting. The area around the Oaghams stones is well maintained. Your ideas to preserve the Ballybrack Dolmen are to be commended; this small "Cromlech", which is standing in the middle of a green situated in a housing estate on the Shangannagh Road, is part of the area's heritage. The Ralahine Road has some nicely kept green areas and the shrubs at the base of the trees add to the overall effect. There were some well positioned planters around the junction of Church Road, Military Road and Shangannagh Road. The shrubs planted at the base of the wall on Military Road were particularly well planned and suitable for the area.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Ballybrack and Killiney district have some good natural amenity areas; those being the Killiney beach and the Shangannagh River Park. It is important to include these as part of your plan so that the local community can appreciate and identify the local wildlife. One way to do this is to erect nature boards in prominent places, for example at the entrance to the park. The committee could also involve the local schools in nature and heritage trails in the area. The 6th Century Monastic Site would be great for wildlife conservation and could be managed and planted with native plants to encourage habitation. The Heritage Council produce a good source booklet for conserving and enhancing wildlife in towns and villages; a guide for local community groups. The committee should also include any interpretative leaflets mentioned.

Litter Control:

There was no obvious signs of litter on Church Road on the day of adjudication. It is important to keep litter under control throughout the year. There was some evidence of overspill litter around the leisure centre beside Tesco's and also around the Loughlinstown shops beside The Lough Inn. Provisions for litter bins on the 2nd phase village improvement map are well positioned and will help to keep the road litter free. Can recycling units noted at arch Bishop McQuid Senior National School. The National Spring Clean which takes place in April is a good way to involve all sectors of the community to contribute to the upkeep of the area.

Tidiness:

Killiney Hill Road north has nice stone walls along the Martello Tower and clear bilingual signs for Killiney Avenue. There were some base weeds along the stone wall and kerb maintenance is needed at Killiney Dart Station; there was also some graffiti on the recycling unit in the station car park. The junction of Seaford Road and Military Road requires some kerb maintenance and anti graffiti spray. There is some evidence of weed killer being used in the area - efforts here are noted. Dog fouling notices tend to deter owners from allowing their dogs to soil main pavements. The Bridge on the Ralahine Road could also do with some anti graffiti spray.

Residential Areas:

The committees suggestions with regards to the public housing at the entrance to Wyattville road should be commended and taken into account by the Housing Section of the local authority. Ballybracks' residential areas in general are very well maintained. However in Ash lawn park, some kerb maintenance is needed. Elm grove looked well presented. Gleanntan Loughlinstown is a nice residential area. Davitt Park efforts were noted. At Cypress and Cedar Court backing onto the Wyattville Road, redevelopment plans of these boarded up houses should be submitted with next year's entry. Firgrove, The Nurseries and Seafield court are well maintained residential areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Wyattville, Shangannagh, Military and Church approach roads were well presented on the day of adjudication. There was little or no litter on any of the main roads. The stone walls are a charming feature in the area and look like they are being well cared for with shrubbery and ivy well cut back. Some of the outer roads seem to be prone to graffiti; perhaps an environmental and conservation talk at the local schools could combat this problem area. The resurfacing of Mountainview Road has certainly improved access. Mario Avenue West is a well kept road with its local stone walls and nicely maintained verge.

General Impression:

The Ballybrack committee have put a lot of effort into the application for this year's tidy towns and are obviously committed to the sensitive development of overall areas mentioned. Keep up the good work!