

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyouskill**

Ref: **122**

County: **Kilkenny**

Mark: **224**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/01/2004**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2004 | Mark Awarded 2003 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 35 | 33 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 26 | 24 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 33 | 33 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 18 | 18 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 37 | 37 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 17 | 17 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 23 | 23 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 27 | 27 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 224 | 220 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator was heartened to hear that Ballyouskill Tidy Towns Committee has attended numerous worthwhile workshops in the last while. You seem to have a good working relationship with Kilkenny County Council, in particular with their environmental officer and their landscape architect. The workshops you have attended in relation to the maintenance of architectural heritage will also be extremely useful. You are obviously well aware of the wealth of ecclesiastical and archeological heritage in the locality. You need to put more emphasis on the wildlife category of the competition, as mentioned by last year's adjudicator. Many thanks for your most useful map which was very helpful on adjudication day. The boundary wall of the Community Centre should be painted before next year's competition.

The Built Environment:

The few properties in the village are generally extremely well maintained. Patrick Foley's Auctioneer's looked well with its attractive lupins to the garden and well maintained premises. The freshly whitewashed wall with blue coping and plinth to the very simple traditional parish church looked extremely well. The attractively maintained graveyard to the front with trees behind the wall was greatly admired, as was the freshly painted wall opposite which had been treated in a similar fashion. Fitzpatrick's Pub looked very fresh in green and yellow. Do be sure to remove Christmas decorations once the season is over!

Landscaping:

This is a category of the competition which you obviously enjoy. There is attractive permanent planting throughout the village. In your submission, you have shown photographs of a wonderful display of daffodils indicating you obviously consider the year round presentation of the village. The grass verges and permanent planting beyond Fitzpatrick's were admired. An attractively planted bed with marigolds and a milk churn and permanent planting on the Ballyraggett side of the village were admired. Grass verges were well cut back in this location. A hawthorn hedge was growing to the boundary wall of the farmyard on this side of the village and will be a fine asset once it takes. However, currently the wall appears rather grubby. The attractive stone planted bed opposite the church set, as it is, in front of the whitewashed wall, is an attractive feature. A colourful display of poppies on the road to the Community Centre looked most cheerful.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Wild honeysuckle evident in the hedgerows was greatly admired. The same comment can be made in relation to this category as was mentioned in last year's report - that is to be sure to start a wildlife project. Perhaps this could be incorporated with your proposed walk along Cromwell Road? Your recycling and composting workshops must certainly have been most helpful in this regard. Your tree planting week is a marvelous initiative. The wildlife habitat and wild flower bed are certainly good ideas to start off with.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good.

Tidiness:

The village gave a very neat and ordered appearance on adjudication day and there is little to report under this category of the competition apart from items mentioned elsewhere in this report.

Residential Areas:

An attractive stone wall to a house on the Ballyraggett side of the village was greatly admired. There are many attractive houses on approach roads and throughout the village particularly on the Ballyraggett side.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

This adjudicator would like to reiterate the comments made in last year's report regarding signage indicating directions to the village as it is quite difficult to find! In terms of your approach roads, do try to strike a balance between a wild overgrown look and an over manicured one, thereby achieving a natural appearance to your approach roads - currently they appear rather neglected. On the Ballinakill Road for example the village nameplate was virtually obscured by overgrowth, as indeed it was on the Ballyraggett side of the village. Verges appeared quite overgrown although the wild roses in the hedgerows were greatly admired.

General Impression:

Ballyousskill is a most attractive village set in some magnificent scenery. It continues to perform well in the competition.

