

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballycahill**

Ref: **82**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **228**

Category: **A**

Date: **18/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	32
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	228	223

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thanks to the committee for completing detailed form with continuation sheet for 3 year action plan. The sketch map made it easier for the adjudicator to identify focal points within the village.

An immense amount of work has been undertaken by this committee of 5, and cooperation with various agencies and the local authority is strong.

It is also very encouraging to see that the Committee has got the support of the wider community. Ballycahill is a very inviting village and a number of positive developments have occurred over the last number of years.

The Built Environment:

The standard of presentation of various buildings was very good and all residents seem to put effort into ensuring that their particular homestead or business premises is to the forefront.

Creane's Uisce Beatha Pub and shop has been renovated since this adjudicator last visited the Village, and it is very much in character with the existing village architecture.

The Community centre is a very well constructed and practical building and is a positive addition to Ballycahill, the resurfacing has made a huge improvement the overall look of the Centre

The other public premises Church, National School and Graveyard were all in very good condition with surrounding grounds kept in an orderly fashion.

Sometimes people that look after these premises, mostly on a voluntary basis, are often taken for granted but it should not be forgotten that they are providing an invaluable service for the benefit

of the Community.

The Village Green, the focal point of Ballycahill has matured over the years and is well cared for by its keeper.

Landscaping:

The previously mentioned Village Green has a rich lawn look to it complemented by new garden furniture and railings. There are not too many of its kind to be seen on this island so congratulations to the "Green Keeper or Keepers"

The Grotto Garden was very pretty with a good mix of perennials, annuals and flowering shrubs.

The levelling of an area that could be a possible blot on the village is a very prudent action.

Even though planting has taken place this year, it is the opinion of this adjudicator that the Church Car Park landscaping needs to be revitalized and possibly upgraded for next year as it is looking a bit jaded.

Once again individual gardens are of a very high standard and all in keeping with the rural look of an Irish Village.

Well done to all concerned.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It was noted that the Wildlife area in the School grounds is to be developed within the next year or so.

This is a positive move and indeed the children could take a lead role with guidance from some one with experience in this field.

Litter Control:

Excellent initiatives have been put in place in this category, suffice to say these initiatives work as the Village was free of litter on adjudication day.

Good to see that school children are actively being encouraged to embrace the message of good litter control.

Tidiness:

The village was free of kerb side weed growth which can be very unsightly if not treated.

As this is very much a farming area some farm activity related residue was scattered in parts of the village, no doubt this will be rectified by the very industrious committee.

It is good to be able to report that the untidy area near the Community Centre is to be levelled and tidied up.

Good ongoing work in this category.

Residential Areas:

The village has only one small estate and this was kept to an acceptable standard.

Ballycahill boasts many fine residences, it was interesting to see in the entry form that the onus is on the owners not alone to look after their own premises but also areas adjoining them.

Overall the standard was very good.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All entrances to the village were maintained to a very good standard even if the road surfaces on some were not up to par - a matter for local councillors to take up with the Council.

The addition of a footpath on the Dark Road would be welcome as this is quite narrow and not conducive to walking.

On the Nenagh Road entrance the Ballycahill name sign was not that visible due to bad positioning.

Overall the standard was very acceptable

General Impression:

Ballycahill was described as a hamlet in last years report but in the eyes of this adjudicator it is a fine example of a small well maintained Irish Village.

The Committee of 5 work very energetically to involve all of the Community in the Tidy Towns effort. Long may this type of spirit prevail.