

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballycommon**

Ref: **74**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **195**

Category: **A**

Date: **16/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	22	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	195	191

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the detailed plan with pictorial additions and map of the core area of the village. The efforts of the Committee of 12 are commendable and it is good to note that these efforts are acknowledged, if the involvement of the wider Community as a whole is anything to go by. Interaction with the Local Authority is very important as it creates an awareness of the needs of the village and its inhabitants.

The Built Environment:

The committee is approaching the treatment of the built environment in a well balanced fashion, taking into account that anything that is planned has to be underpinned by the proper resources.

Action items have to be achievable within a given period as distinct to being aspirational.

Many communities fall into the trap of getting grandiose plans drawn up with out due consideration to the practicality of being in a position to get things done.

Carrig School and Church are in good condition well maintained and tidy without being exceptional. Molloy's Garage and Shop, The Thatch and Fleur De Lys (Caroline Collison) were well maintained with adjoining areas clean.

The condition of the Muintir Na Tire Hall and adjoining car park was acceptable, an improvement on last year judging by 2003 report. It could be revitalized with some imaginative use of colour just to

break the monotony.

Landscaping:

This is a section that could do with a little help from the input of the local authority horticulturist or equivalent.

The village has potential to improve in this category and objective advice is always worthwhile. That aside the Ballyartella Mill and riverside garden was very well presented and credit is due to those responsible for its upkeep.

I would concur with comments of last years adjudicator that commercial businesses could do a little more to provide suitable planting arrangements.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Some centres have more natural habitats than others,so performance in this category is often based on what is in place already rather than what is planned for the future.

The Committee in Ballycommon has made good efforts to encourage the promotion of wildlife conservation.

If the School is not already involved it would be worthwhile to get the children working on some related mini project.

Litter Control:

Except for a some obvious wrappers on the Ballyartella Road the standard was acceptable.

I note that a mini action plan for litter control has been put in place,

It would be worthwhile to get the local environmental officer to give a talk to both the adult and school going population of the village.

Tidiness:

Overall the village and its surrounds were quite tidy even though there was ongoing silage making in the vicinity that could have created excessive residue.

The proliferation of signs at the main cross in such a small village is a bit of an eyesore and takes away from the look of the Village.

This is just a personal observation and the local community may not see this as a problem at all.

A few directional and name place signs were a little dirty and need to be cleaned.

Residential Areas:

Ballycommon is a small village so in effect it is residential by definition.

Most private residences were kept in very good condition and some had very colourful gardens.

There are a few new houses under construction and these will fit in with the existing village architecture and surrounding landscape in the years to come.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

This is a category that was highlighted last year as having much room for improvement.

It is hard to get the balance right between over cutting and over growth.

Allowances have to be made for the preservation of wildlife that frequent hedgerows and grass margins.

I feel that there was improvement in the last year and the Committee has made a concerted effort to highlight areas for attention .

This year the Garrykennedy entrance, even allowing for enhancing features such as a sandstone

wall, was a little overgrown. The rest were up to an acceptable standard.

General Impression:

Ballycommon is a village that has room for improvement and could do well in the competition over the years ahead.

Right now the Committee of 12 has set some achievable goals for the next few years.

The Committee deserves the support of the local population, and to be very fair that support is evident in the way that most inhabitants take pride in their place.

Keep up the effort and no doubt more people will row in behind.