

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballycanew**

Ref: **482**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **228**

Category: **B**

Date: **21/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	25
Litter Control	40	30	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	228	223

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you indeed for all the information sent with the entry form which was most useful on adjudication day. Your plan makes very interesting reading. It is now very near to coming to the end of its life. The fact that your large committee have the support of Wexford County Council, your parish council, FAS, schools, youth clubs, residents associations, etc. and your community was evident on adjudication day in terms of the work which has been done. Congratulations to all concerned. Ballycanew has now reached a comparatively high mark in the competition. Reading through your plan it would be true to say that a number of your projects are aspirational and may be dependent on other agencies. At this stage and, assuming that you propose to plan further for the next three years, it is suggested that your committee might survey the village and identify what they, as a committee, could carry out over the three years on an annual basis within their physical and financial resources. Work, of course, will continue on road maintenance, pathway maintenance, resurfacing, etc. but there are probably many other areas under the various headings of the competition which many need much more local attention than from state agencies. You received an in-depth report from the adjudicator last year. The following therefore is by way of comment on perceived further progress to date and should be read in tandem with that report.

The Built Environment:

Ballycanew is very fortunate in having many fine buildings including your new School, Old School, Churches and Community Hall, all of which were very nicely presented on adjudication day.

Resurfaced car parking was much admired and that, particularly in the school area, is a great boon to parents.

Landscaping:

Landscaping throughout the village looks lovely and creates a lovely atmosphere. That at the roundabout in the centre of the village and at the Ounavarra River Park reflects great credit on the providers and the maintainers. Where presented, hanging basket, planters, window boxes and tubs looked very nice and added greatly to the overall landscaping of the village. The Pump was also very nicely presented. Part of your new planning could be the identification of further areas for the planting of trees, shrubs and flowers which will add even further to the lovely ambience of the village. Trees and shrubs should be selected and planted with a view to giving some colour on an all year round basis. Many such planting throughout the village in the past are now maturing very nicely. Tree planting is this generation's gift to the future and posterity will thank you for it.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your work at the Ounavarra River Park is to be commended and the lovely bird boxes at Ounavarra Park housing estate are a lovely feature. Continue to investigate ways and means of developing projects under this heading, e.g. a wildlife project with your school children perhaps in the school grounds. Mention of this was made in last year's report but there is no indication this year that the project might be undertaken.

Litter Control:

While there was some minor evidence of littering in the main street and approach road the village, nevertheless, was largely free of it and congratulations are due to all concerned. Perhaps some additional litter bins in outlying areas would help. Litter control is a very important part of the competition and needs constant monitoring.

Tidiness:

While many of the comments made in last year's report under this heading regarding advertising holdings, etc. are still applicable the village, nevertheless, and in spite of a horrendous throughput of traffic, looked tidy and had a nice atmosphere about it. Open storage on some commercial premises is a problem - a difficult one to solve. Would it be practical to approach some of the owners to suggest the planting of trees or shrubs which would have a screening effect or perhaps the introduction of some lattice fencing?

Residential Areas:

The fact that two new Residents Associations have been established is noted and, in the event, should be of great assistance to your efforts. Housing estates in the village including Ounavarra Park, Ballycanew Court, Village Gate estate, etc. are all being very well maintained and reflect great credit on their residents. Individual houses throughout the village also looked well and in many cases had lovely gardens in full bloom on adjudication day which were lovely to see. This type of estate and individual effort is very important for the competition. You cannot succeed without it.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads in general looked well. In some cases, however, they needed strimming. Adjudication normally starts from either the speed limit signs or the village nameplate signs, whichever you opt for and verges should be strimmed from there in, bearing in mind the notes in the Tidy Towns Handbook regarding the preservation of wildflowers and wildlife habitat. While some pot holing still exists, nevertheless most roads have good surfaces and pathways and are being well maintained. New road surfacing and a new pathway on the Harrow Road was noticed on

adjudication day.

General Impression:

In spite of its serious traffic problem, Ballycanew nevertheless continues to present itself very well in the competition. Planning and attention to detail will gain further marks for you as years go on. Success does not come overnight but on the basis of the excellent work being done by the Agencies and your committee, major success cannot be far away and, in this respect, the Adjudicator looks forward to returning to Ballycanew again next year to see further progress made.