

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyfad**

Ref: **261**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **179**

Category: **B**

Date: **21/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	
The Built Environment	40	27	
Landscaping	40	20	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	
Litter Control	40	28	
Tidiness	20	14	
Residential Areas	30	18	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	
General Impression	10	6	
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>179</b>	

### Overall Developmental Approach:

We welcome Ballyfad into the Tidy Towns competition and wish them every success in it. For a village of its size, you have quite a large committee which is an indication of the interest which can be generated in the competition and its objectives. In this connection, your involvement with Kilanerin - who have made good progress in the competition - should be useful. However, you should try to identify for yourselves what environmental projects you could carry out in the village over the next three years within your physical and financial resources. The recommendation is that you should survey the village to identify what environmental problems exist and, perhaps in conjunction with your Local Authority and indeed other agencies such as FAS, what remedies you can come up with. Other centres have successfully carried out such an exercise and are now progressing nicely in the competition. Thank you indeed for all the information sent with the entry form and for the map which was most useful on adjudication day.

### The Built Environment:

You already have a very nice Church and Graveyard, both of which are being well maintained, a Hall, which probably needs a coating of paint and the School and Tennis Courts which are in good condition. The Old Pump area could also be developed into a nice focal point. The Post Office, while small, is quaint. The wall besides it, however, needs to be repaired and the general area probably needs refurbishment by way of painting. etc.

## **Landscaping:**

You say in your entry form that there is no scope for landscaping in the area. Areas however can be created. Any small area can be planted with shrubs and flowers while bigger areas such as the Church could take containerised planting as could the Old Pump site. The School grounds could do with some further nice tree and shrub planting and also some beds of flowers. There are probably many other areas where planting can take place such as on the verges of approach roads, on the tops of walls, etc. Do not overlook the use of window boxes and hanging baskets.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Traditionally it is suggested that perhaps your school children get involved in a wildlife project which could consist of nesting boxes and feeding tables for birds and perhaps a wildlife board showing what birds and other wildlife can be seen locally. Perhaps there is someone in the locality who is knowledgeable on this subject who would be of help to you. Otherwise you could consult with Duchas. The notice in the Tidy Towns Handbook, in this respect, will be helpful.

## **Litter Control:**

On adjudication day, Ballyfad was reasonably free of litter. There was however the odd items seen blowing around the street and in the verges. Perhaps a few litter bins would solve this problem. It is however an important part of the competition and needs constant monitoring.

## **Tidiness:**

In general, the village was presented in a neat and tidy manner. In such a small centre the emphasis here would be of each individual premises looking after their own environs which should not be difficult in a village the size of Ballyfad.

## **Residential Areas:**

Ballyfad does not have many houses but those that are there are being very well maintained. Some had lovely gardens in full bloom on adjudication day which was very nice to see. This type of individual effort is very important in the competition. You cannot succeed without it.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Adjudication normally takes place from the village nameplate signs or speed limit signs, whichever you opt for. In the case of Ballyfad, approach roads only looked reasonably well and were very overgrown in spots. Approach roads are very important because they tend to set the tone for the rest of the village. In any cutting you carry out, however, do take note of the advice given in the Tidy Towns Handbook regarding the preservation of wild flowers and wildlife habitat.

## **General Impression:**

The village is very small, but has the capacity to be very attractive. Future success will depend on planning and attention to detail and looking for and creating opportunities to carry out environmental projects which will gain you additional marks under each heading in the competition. The adjudicator looks forward to returning to Ballyfad again next year to see further progress made. Do keep up the good work. You will reap the benefits from it in years to come.

