

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballymurn**

Ref: **423**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **232**

Category: **B**

Date: **16/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	39
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	34	32
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	232	228

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for all the information and for the map sent with the entry form all of which was most useful on adjudication day. It is gratifying to read that you continue to have the support of FAS, Wexford County, local schools and organisations and of course, your local community. The results of their work were to be seen in the village on adjudication day. In terms of planning you would be well advised to identify on a year to year basis what projects you can undertake within your physical and financial resources. It is very nice to have a general plan, but on a year to year basis you should be able to monitor the various projects which you propose to undertake at the beginning of each year which is a good form of measurement as to how successful or otherwise you have been. You received an in-depth report from the adjudicator last year. The following report is by of comment on perceived further progress to date and should be read in tandem with last year's report.

The Built Environment:

For a village of its size, Ballymurn has quite a number of public buildings including the Church, Post Office, Credit Union and School, all of which looked very well and are being nicely maintained. The graveyard is also being well maintained, as indeed are your walls and gates.

Landscaping:

The landscaping of the Church was much admired as indeed was the open spaces in St Joseph's Estate. Landscaping in the vicinity of the estate on the road is also maturing nicely. The 1798 Monument looks well but do pay attention to some of the comments made last year under this heading regarding, in some cases, general presentation.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your comments in your plan are noted and obviously, progress is being made. The Sow River would be ideal location for a wildlife project but, in the event, get the best professional information available either locally or through Duchas (or its successor). Notes in the Tidy Towns Handbook would also be helpful in this respect.

Litter Control:

A high level of litter control has been maintained this year and congratulations are due to all concerned. This is a very important part of the competition and needs constant monitoring.

Tidiness:

Commercial premises looked well and, in general, the village was presented in a very neat and tidy manner. Car parks are being well maintained and all of this reflects great credit on your community and their interest in their environment. Well done to all concerned.

Residential Areas:

Houses in St Joseph's Terrace looked well and are being well maintained. New house building in the terrace was noticed which will inevitably lead to some untidiness, but this will pass and has been allowed for in the adjudication. The road through the Terrace is badly in need of resurfacing. Ballymurn has a number of very nice individual houses, all being well maintained and some with lovely gardens in full bloom. These are a joy to behold and contribute greatly to the overall atmosphere of the village. Congratulations to all concerned.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads looked somewhat untidy on adjudication day and were badly in need of strimming. Adjudication normally takes place between the speed limit signs or the village nameplate signs, whichever you opt for, and verges should be strimmed from there on in, bearing in mind the notes in the Tidy Towns Handbook regarding the preservation of wildflowers and wildlife habitat. Road surfaces are quite good and pathways are being well maintained. Approach roads are a very important part of the competition as they tend to set the tone for the rest of the village.

General Impression:

Ballymurn is a very nice village in a lovely rural setting. Your committee are doing excellent work and your many helpers and sponsors are to be congratulated on their continued support. Further success will be achieved through careful planning and attention to detail and in this respect the Adjudicator looks forward to returning to Ballymurn again next to see sight of further progress made.