

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballydehob**

Ref: **628**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **245**

Category: **B**

Date: **05/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	41
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>239</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator noted that you had reached Year Five of your five year plan. Do ensure that you prepare a new plan for next year's competition. This can be partially based on the comments made in this report, in addition to any future plans and proposals that you have. Ballydehob Tidy Towns Association is obviously one which has a great interest in developing and enhancing the town to the highest standards possible, while still maintaining its unique working charm. Do be sure to include the entire plan with next year's entry and indeed each year so that the adjudicator can see what progress you have made as years go by.

### The Built Environment:

Most of the commercial properties within the village looked extremely well, such as South West Properties and Catriona's Beauty Salon. Also of note were attractive shop fronts such as McCarthy's, Annes and C. O'Sullivan's Butchers. The West Cork Gourmet Store looked extremely sharp in a deep red colour. One or two properties were in need of a fresh coat of paint- but not many. The adjudicator noted that construction work was taking place to Seoda, the former jewellery shop. The Catholic Church looked extremely fresh. Perhaps some landscaping could be considered in this location at the front boundary wall in order to give the tarmacadamed car park area a more soft and natural effect. The Church of Ireland grounds looked extremely well and its gates piers had been freshly painted. Both National Schools were extremely fresh and the new Play-group building was admired in its cheerful yellow and red colour, with attractive seating and bird tables outside. The

flower shop and adjacent property looked very colourful with their magnificent displays outside. Do take care that goods on pavements are located in such a way as not to interfere with pedestrian traffic. The AIB appeared somewhat flaky and will need repainting before next year's competition.

### **Landscaping:**

There is scope for developing and enhancing the open space at the corner of the road leading from the village centre to the Catholic Church as it appears quite overgrown at the moment. Your new planting behind Dan O'Mahony's statue was admired as indeed were the attractive informal floral displays throughout. The new facilities at the Community Centre incorporating playing pitches were admired. It is to be hoped that you will be able to resolve the issue with the tennis courts in order to resurface them and put up a tennis net so that people can enjoy this facility. The attractive landscaped area adjacent, with its pergola and picnic area looked extremely well and the incidental space on the Main Street opposite the road to the Community Hall looked magnificent with its displays of daisies and permanent planting.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Bird tables and boxes were noted at the new Playgroup building. Ballydehob is indeed fortunate in this regard in its magnificent Estuary location. Perhaps you could consider developing a wildlife garden or wild flower garden in conjunction with the local national schools? Do check the Tidy Towns Handbook in regard to gathering some ideas for further developing this aspect of the competition. Some magnificent wild flowers were evident in the hedgerows along approach roads, such as ferns, montbretia, fuchsia and foxgloves.

### **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day was reasonably good. However, there were one or two problem areas where small amounts of litter was evident, such as the road leading from the Gourmet Store up to the church and also to the well used area in the vicinity of the Community Hall. Your plastic litter bins appeared somewhat dated and should be replaced with ones that are more up to date. Perhaps you could consider lobbying Cork County Council in this regard.

### **Tidiness:**

The adjudicator noted your comments regarding the establishment of a new location for the recycling bins. This issue was raised in both the first and second adjudications last year and perhaps the comments made could be implemented - such as screening the recycling bins, even if they are only there temporarily. There was a minor problem with weed control to the delightful limestone kerbs on the main street and to the steps up to the Methodist Church. Do ensure that messy yard areas are screened from public view. A good example of an attractive yard space was that located beside the Keltic Knot Craft Shop. A broken bench was evident between the Twelve Arch Bridge and the jetty area and this should be either repaired or replaced. Do give consideration to rear areas of buildings also, as these are very evident as one approaches the main street from the community hall area. Some building materials appear to have been dumped on the Cork Road - however this was beyond the speed limit sign in this location.

### **Residential Areas:**

Try to ensure that traditional vernacular street buildings maintain their render. There is currently a trend to remove the render in order to expose the stonework below. However, this is incorrect from a conservation point of view and can lead to problems with water penetration. Some charming houses on the road beyond the Gourmet Store were admired with their freshly painted facades and attractive floral displays outside. The entrance to the Rectory opposite the Church of Ireland were greatly admired. A freshly painted long white house with yellow trims on the Durrus Road looked well. Some of the gables to houses on the Schull Road will need painting before next year's

competition.

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

Directional signs were extremely badly stained with red algae growth on the Bantry Road and Schull / Durrus Road junctions. The Durrus Road was well presented but its speed limit sign appeared quite grubby and some graffiti was evident to the village nameplate sign in this location. Road signs beyond the Catholic National School were also in need of some attention. The Cork Road was well presented with well cut grass verges. However, the speed limit sign on this approach was quite damaged. This road affords the visitor a magnificent view to the village beyond.

### **General Impression:**

Ballydehob is a most attractive vibrant and attractively unspoilt village set in a magnificent location. It continues to perform extremely well in the competition. Do keep up the good work!

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

It was a great pleasure for this adjudicator to make a first visit to Ballydehob on a bright summer's evening. You have one of the most distinctive bridges in the country and one that provides an attractive introduction to the town. You might consider erecting a plaque giving details of when it was built and by which architect etc. The various levels throughout the town offer a great contrast of views of the surrounding area. The town lends itself to strong bright colours and you should lay greater emphasis on this. We would welcome a programme of street and housing signage to help the visitor and locals alike as such signs would create a sense of place: e.g., Hill Street and Chapel Lane etc. You should get an appropriate design of bilingual signs and contact CCC for assistance. We like your many murals but would issue a word of caution to ensure periodic refurbishment and good maintenance. The first adjudicator outlines in good detail your strong and weak points and we urge you to pay more attention to detail now that you have raised your marks significantly in the past two years.