

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballon**

Ref: **15**

County: **Carlow**

Mark: **226**

Category: **B**

Date: **12/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	19
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	226	222

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballon Improvement Group is obviously one which shows a great level of interest in the future development of its village. You mention in your submission that you are planning to prepare a development programme but you neglected to include a copy in your submission, so presumably this is not yet completed. Hopefully it will be in place for next year's competition and included in your application. Your website is a very progressive idea and hopefully will pay dividends in years to come.

The Built Environment:

Both public and commercial premises looked well on the day. In terms of the latter, Lucy Nolan's Headstones, was fine and Joe Doyle's Bar looked very fresh. The church was well presented with its marvellous associated grotto opposite - both looked to be maintained to the highest standards. Do discourage the use of curved canopies and encourage their replacement with traditional fabric awnings which look more appropriate in a traditional Irish village. The sign to the premises opposite the catholic church was in need of some attention, as it appeared rather flaky on the day.

Landscaping:

Possibilities for further landscaping projects would be at the Texaco Garage. The adjacent colourful

permanent planting next to the wall is most effective and so would benefit from extending to directly in front of the petrol station. The Top Garage at the far end of the village would also benefit from some landscaping treatment. It is a long stretch of road frontage which would benefit greatly from more incidental landscaped spaces along its length. The hanging baskets at the church looked well but do ensure that you don't have an over-dependance on colourful floral displays but rather concentrate on more permanent planting for year round effect. The very bright pebble-dashed wall of the graveyard was noted - the graveyard itself was beautifully maintained

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildlife board was in place, as promised, at the school grounds. Perhaps you should consider following up the suggestion of last year's adjudicator in their report to provide feeding tables and bird and bat boxes in the school? This adjudicator was pleased to note the green flag flying proudly outside!

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was very good given the busy nature of the village of Ballon.

Tidiness:

The village generally looked quite neat and ordered, although it is important to ensure that outbuildings with tin roofs are freshly painted in their traditional red or green colours. Weed control was a problem at the graveyard side of the village and near the stone bench closer to the village centre.

Residential Areas:

The new development at Forge Meadow was noted and hopefully its landscaping will mature well, as at the moment it looks a little bare and empty! The attractive housing estate by the church with its well maintained open space was admired and Maple Lawn also looked well.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Located as it is on the busy main Wexford to Carlow Road, Ballon, as previously mentioned in this report, has a long stretch of roadside to maintain. Along the Carlow Road, the verges were well cut with banks of wild flowers behind which created an attractive effect! Perhaps some more colourful ones could be planted for next year such as the always cheerful bright red poppies and maybe even blue cornflowers? The verges on the Rosslare side of the village did not appear to have been cut - perhaps you were waiting for the seeding promised by local engineer? Unfortunately it looked rather wild and neglected on adjudication day. However, marks were not lost in this regard.

General Impression:

Ballon is an attractive and vibrant centre which continues to progress well in the competition.

Second Round Adjudication:

The green at Maple Lawn was particularly admired. The prolific planting along the road near Top Garage had the effect diminished somewhat by weedy kerbsides. Also here and there a few laneways and yards could be improved. The school and Doyle's Lounge were particularly favourably noted. Tall weeds growing through a timber fence should have been cut back. Most individual properties, both residential and commercial were fine but the intervening spaces could have been better. Ballon is a small village with great potential. Short term work should concentrate on

maintenance. We look forward to returning next year.