

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballydesmond**

Ref: **703**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **164**

Category: **A**

Date: **20/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	
The Built Environment	40	24	
Landscaping	40	20	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	
Litter Control	40	25	
Tidiness	20	12	
Residential Areas	30	15	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	
General Impression	10	6	
TOTAL MARK	300	164	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome to the competition and thank you for details submitted. Your entry into this national competition will benefit the community and in the coming years should enhance your standard of environmental awareness. Your first priority requires some form of a plan that will chart the way forward for overall improvements. This will best be achieved by contacting the local authority and developing a close cordial relationship with your local engineer in particular. Such a plan should represent your vision of an improved Ballydesmond and have the backing of the community. You should also liaise with other successful Tidy Towns committees in the county. It is best to learn from each other.

The Built Environment:

The village has many attractive traditional features and your challenge is to ensure that developments are in keeping with the surrounding rural ethos of the village. There was a welcoming air of fresh painting throughout the village and many people have gone to great trouble to present their premises to a high standard. The church environs would benefit from some landscaping and this could be done over a period. The school looked well and was freshly painted and well presented. John D's shop front is attractive. The Credit Union building is excellent on this important location and provides an attractive introduction the the village from this approach.

Landscaping:

You have a great opportunity for long-term landscaping and ideally you should embark on a tree planting blitz approaching the village. Trees are a great investment and can transform villages into attractive places to live. You have many open spaces that are in need of a clean-up and many of these offer potential for raising your marks. When landscaping, don't go for the quick fix and ensure you plant the right species of plants and shrubs. You should seek advice on landscaping which will prove a worthwhile investment. The car park at the church would be much improved if landscaped. This is now common in other centres and improves the appearance of the church itself. Páirc Nóra Ní Iarlaithé is well presented with an attractive sign.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There is now an increased awareness in wildlife and many centres are making great progress in generating enthusiasm within their respective community. Wildlife promotion is not confined to river banks, lakes and sea fronts, so you should start by listing the popular wildlife species in your area. This often provides an ideal project opportunity for school pupils. We suggest you set up a small sub-committee and give them the task of acquiring the available literature associated with the promotion of wildlife. Also, when planting trees or shrubs, ensure you plant species that will provide food for birds in the autumn and winter periods. There is an open area on the left hand side coming down from the church to the village that would provide an ideal wildlife park. Could it be developed as it would enhance the village and provide an important amenity.

Litter Control:

Well done on a good litter performance. The village had very little litter in evidence and does not seem to be a problem. This reflects well on the local community and commercial premises. However, the bring bank is being abused by people bringing litter and leaving it at the base of the containers. This is not an unusual problem but needs to be curtailed or it will escalate.

Tidiness:

Your problems here relate to unattended open spaces and untidy undeveloped areas. Also, some developments are unfinished and project an image of untidiness. Developers should be encouraged to finish well and remove all rubble from the site. The sign in the village for Killarney is obliterated by a sycamore tree which should be removed. You also have some rusty farm gates that need attention. Ideally these should be painted a bright colour.

Residential Areas:

The standard of housing is good and there is much evidence of individual effort. The freshly painted houses in the village really stand out and add significantly to the overall appearance of the centre. The housing scheme at Church Road is well presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There is a weakness with your approach roads. Approach roads are important as they represent first impressions. While the welcome signs are well designed and presented they are in some cases obliterated by excessive growth. You have opportunity to increase your marks in this category by paying more attention to the approach roads. This will call for collective endeavour from the community. The tree planting on the village centre is commendable and illustrates the value of planting for the next generation. You should extend this. The local stone signs are very attractive and important in highlighting the local place names.

General Impression:

It was a delight to pay a first ever visit to Ballydesmond. You have much to cherish and you have potential to become a high scorer in the competition. Your challenge now is to generate public opinion in your favour and ensure that all members of the community are given an opportunity to make a contribution. As mentioned you need a phased plan that reflects your vision for the future. You have made a good start by entering the competition and we wish you well for the future.

Second Round Adjudication: