

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyhooly**

Ref: **26**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **208**

Category: **A**

Date: **28/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	28
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	29	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	31	29
Tidiness	20	15	17
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	208	205

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submission and details of work on hand. Ballyhooly is a most interesting village and has much 19th century influence throughout. Indeed it is an ideal village for Tidy Towns activity and the new developments offer challenges and opportunities. The busy traffic, like so many other centres, is now a problem and not contributing to the environmental peace of this attractive rural village. You now need to update your phased village plan and tackle a number of projects each year. The large number of new houses will undoubtedly change the character of the village and of course boost your population. It will also offer opportunities for increased participation from new residents and it behoves you, as a committee, to canvass for new membership.

The Built Environment:

As mentioned last year, the old village buildings and in particular the terraced houses are a distinctive part of the village and should be protected and maintained to a high standard. Many of the houses have succumbed to the pvc syndrome and this is a pity. The school entrance could be much improved with freshly painted iron work and the school yard mentioned last year is still in need of weed spray. The community hall should be painted a bright colour on this important approach. It also needs an appropriate bilingual sign.

Landscaping:

We acknowledge the great colour created by so many flower tubs, window boxes, hanging baskets and flower beds throughout the village: this is commendable. The amenity at the Fermoy approach is attractive and provides an interesting layout of the area. Tree planting of previous years continues to enhance and illustrates the value of good tree planting, especially on the approach roads. The area around the multi-arched bridge is ideal for improved landscaped and an important landmark for the village. Some of the planting of previous years needs to be revisited and this should be done for next year.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have great opportunity to raise your marks in this section. You should consider doing a survey of the local wildlife: especially the bird life and then erect some display boards illustrating your findings. Seek advice from the Irish Wildbird Conservancy who will be happy to oblige. Many centres are now running projects in association with the local school and this may be a way of raising interest in this section.

Litter Control:

Litter control is good and litter bins seem adequate in number and are well located. Litter control is always a good test of committees success in Tidy Towns, so well done.

Tidiness:

Your have numerous problems in this area and some are being caused by new developments. The road up to the GAA complex is poor and the stone wall here needs repairs. Dereliction continues to be a problem and will only be solved with public and private commitment. Cars parked on the footpath are unacceptable and prohibit access for pedestrians, forcing them onto a sometimes dangerous road. The two plaques on the pillars to the GAA entrance need cleaning.

Residential Areas:

The new estates on the road up to the GAA field will be of paramount importance to the village's appearance. We hope the environs will be landscaped in a manner compatible with the standard of the houses themselves. The new estate at Glaise na mBreac also offers potential for village improvement at this end of the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road structure is good throughout and approach roads are well maintained. Side and back areas now form a core part of the adjudication system and we urge you to ensure they are presented to a high standard. These can be particularly interesting in planned villages as they often reveal interesting features worthy of highlighting: e.g., arches, and pillars etc.

General Impression:

It was a delight to visit and adjudicate Ballygooly for the first time and witness work on hand. You have the potential to become a high scorer in the competition and we urge you to update your plans and apply yourselves to the suggestions in recent reports. Try and retain the rural ethos of the village and encourage developers to respect the traditions of the village.

Second Round Adjudication:

