

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballincollig**

Ref: **289**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **235**

Category: **F**

Date: **09/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	43
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	28	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	25
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	235	228

Overall Developmental Approach:

From the additional information supplied with the entry and the development plan for the year, it is clear that there is a determined approach towards improving the overall appearance of the village. As indicated in your plan the committee needs the support of the entire community to deal with a rapidly developing situation. It is therefore a very positive move to involve the local schools and other community groups. It is important too that the committee is in a position to call on different people to help out with specific projects.

The Built Environment:

There is a huge building programme in progress throughout the village at present. The enormous scale of the new development in the centre of the village at the former military base will make a significant impact on the community. This development which carries the label of "A new Urban experience" will, when completed, change the face of the area considerably. There are many commercial developments taking place in different areas of the village such as those in the Business Park on the Link road. The area of the Ballincollig Technology Park is also a thriving one and the area in this vicinity is tidily maintained. It is noted that many existing buildings in the village are well maintained. The premises of the Ballincollig Community Hall is very nicely presented. Also the church buildings of St. Mary and St. John and that of Christ Our Light are excellently maintained. The church building of St. Peter's, although located outside the village east of the Poulavone roundabout, is also a lovely well maintained old building. School buildings too, such as Gaelscoil Ui

Riordain, Scoil Eoin and Colaiste Choilm were all well presented. The development at Oriel House at the western side of the village is well in progress and it is to be welcomed that the best features of the former premises are being preserved.

Landscaping:

The importance of well planned landscaping and planting throughout the entire village cannot be overemphasised in view of the large scale building programme which is in progress. The landscaping work at the main roundabouts, at the West End roundabout, the Poulavone roundabout and the new roundabout of Kilumney Link East are all tastefully carried out. It is noted that there is a good standard of landscaping in many of the mature residential areas. Where it is not possible to carry out planting, the use of flower tubs, if carefully maintained, is a good idea and a good example of this is at the Church of St. Mary and St. John. Extensive landscaping work has been carried out at the Ballincollig Fire Station and this looks very well. The Lattice Tree planting at the corner of the AIB bank is attractive. It is noted that you are liaising with the County Council in relation to planting. It is also suggested that your committee have a vigilant dialogue with the various developers with a view to ensuring that the important aspect of an adequate landscaping/planting programme is adhered to.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Due to the huge growth of the village and its population, the wildlife and natural amenities aspect of the competition will take on a new significance. The community is fortunate to have a designated area like the community park so close to the village. It is a most valuable amenity for the community and it is being very well maintained. The mature trees and shrubbery in the vicinity of the park are a good source of habitat for many species of wildlife. Having an expert survey of the wildlife potential of the park is an excellent idea and hopefully the findings of this will enhance the wildlife aspect of this excellent amenity. The putting in place of an appropriate display map dealing with the area's wildlife, plant life etc. would be a useful educational initiative. The large containers sited in the park, some of which look quite dilapidated, do not enhance the area. The grass was well trimmed and the park furniture is well maintained.

Litter Control:

The litter situation in almost all of the residential areas was quite good. Also the litter situation in the vicinity of the schools was good - so your contact with the schools in this regard is giving results. However the litter situation in some areas needs to be watched, for example in areas of the main street in the vicinity of shops. The community should fully support the efforts of the Litter Warden who seems to be bringing about considerable improvement. Also involving the schools and bodies like the Lions Club is an excellent idea. Litter is an ongoing problem and it is an aspect of the Competition that all residents can assist with. Immediately some of the litter bins along the main street would need to be repainted.

Tidiness:

Considering the level of building and development work, which is in progress in the village at present, the tidiness situation overall is reasonably good. In those areas where large scale developments are taking place there cannot be much progress until completion stage is reached. There are however many areas of the village where there is a good level of tidiness. The Regional Park and the general Inishmore area was very tidy. The general area of the Technology Park was quite tidy. The entrances to both the Ballincollig GAA and the Ballincollig RFC were both tidy. Your annual Shop Front competition can play an important role in this aspect of Tidy Towns because, apart from the actual shop front aspect, it will also encourage traders to aim for a higher level of tidiness in the vicinity of their premises. There is scope for improvement in the areas around some of the many businesses on the Link road.

Residential Areas:

The number of residential areas in and around the village continues to grow. In most cases where development works are completed, these residential areas are excellently maintained and well cared for. For example residential areas such as Prospect Lawn, Aylesbury and Wyndham Downs are all beautifully maintained with green areas neatly trimmed and with good landscaping work carried out. The Innishmore Square area was particularly attractive. The large green area at the Castlepark residential area was well maintained. In new housing developments, it is important that an appropriate and adequate programme of planting accompanies the development.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

No doubt the opening of the new bypass road was a major development for the community and the village generally. It obviously substantially reduces a very heavy traffic flow through the village and from that point of view eliminates considerable congestion in the village area. On both the east and west approach roads, the attractively designed bilingual signs for the village were noted and those signs included the names of both the French and German areas with which Ballincollig is twinned. The Ballincollig Saclay - Millennium Tree and the nearby seat is nicely maintained. The colourful flower boxes planted at East Guide are very attractive. However there is high grass and weed growth behind a wall and in front of mature trees in this vicinity and this would need to be attended to. The sculpture at the Poulavone roundabout is impressive. The new Childrens Play area near the Health Centre in the vicinity of the Technology Park looks very well; the use of natural stone in the boundary wall is to be welcomed. The old stone wall across from Oriel House is a fine feature and is well maintained. In the Castlepark area grass and weed growth along the kerbs would need to be attended to. The tastefully designed wooden footbridge which facilitates access to the Regional Park from the Inniscarra road is both attractive and useful.

General Impression:

Your Tidy Towns Committee has a very important role to play at this stage of your community's development. The village is undergoing unprecedented commercial and residential development, development which will inevitably bring much change in its trail. So it is of great importance to have a body like the Tidy Towns Committee to monitor these developments and to influence where possible this development. It is encouraging to note that your committee realises the importance of retaining the most attractive aspects of the village and it is hoped you will have success with this. Your aspirations to be classified as "a town" are noted and you are wished good luck in all your efforts.

Second Round Adjudication:

The tremendous amounts of building development in progress and the consequences of the bypass opening have created a new environment in Ballincollig. Tree plantings over the past two decades are really maturing well and giving a great impact to the town – particularly the trees groves in places and the range of tree species planted is also of great value. Colourful bedding displays along the roadside give a very cheerful appearance to this very long town. The housing estates are of very high quality and the maintenance is generally superb. The Technology Park offers an interesting contrast to the buildings of the town -the nearby-vacated premises hopefully will get a new lease of life. Individual houses within Innishmore housing estate have made great efforts with displays. The new tree plantings and grassed area opposite the R.F.C at the west end will prove very attractive in time. The Poulavone roundabout was looking spectacular at this adjudication. Some litter was noted through the carparking areas behind the shopping centre and there are some raw sites on the upper road behind these carparks. The town centre is progressing well and will have an important impact on the town.