

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballingeary**

Ref: **404**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **212**

Category: **A**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	28	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	20
Litter Control	40	21	19
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	212	205

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballingeary is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included additional information and map, all of which was helpful in adjudication. Ballingeary enjoys an excellent location on the banks of the River Lee and is set against the backdrop of low wooded hills. Its main street which is narrow and winding has a certain charm which, together with well presented buildings and nicely landscaped areas, makes a visit to Ballingeary an unforgettable experience.

The Built Environment:

The majority of your buildings are beautifully presented and those that were especially admired included the O'Corcora premises, the national school and the church. Ardnalee was also beautifully painted and adorned with flower displays. Coláiste Muinteoireachta na Mumhan was a little weather stained and may need attention shortly. A large commercial premises together with its entrance and curtilage area was a bit of an eyesore. Congratulations to Coláiste na Mumhan on its centenary anniversary last year, it was quite well presented.

Landscaping:

Well done on a fine presentation under this heading. Your new park development was admired and

has been considered for a landscape award. Landscaping to the roadside of the sports grounds was admired also. Flower displays and climbing plants on the Post Office premises and adjoining dwelling were beautiful as was landscaping at the Craft Shop and Scoil Mhuire.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Species diversity in your wild hedgerows was particularly appreciated, these included morning glory, ferns, ivy and many others. The Clapper Bridge project is an excellent initiative and was being enjoyed by a boy and his dog at the time of adjudication. We look forward to further developments under this heading with the help of the Rural Social Scheme as indicated in your submission this year. Please forward details of this with next year's application.

Litter Control:

There was a light scattering of litter throughout the village on the day of adjudication with more on the landscaped banks at the hall; this did not present a serious problem but is worth noting. We appreciate the difficulties involved when students arrive for the summer and the difficulty of gaining the cooperation of a transient population. Well done to the youth clubs for their input under this heading. We note your stated need for more litter bins, particularly during the summer and wish you every success in acquiring these.

Tidiness:

Congratulations on the recycling facility at the national school and on your competition to heighten awareness on the part of residents. The treatment of the vacant structure located across from Tigh an Cuine is excellent. An undeveloped site beside the swimming pool presents problems under this heading.

Residential Areas:

A number of private gardens were admired, two of which included one beside Casadh na Spraoide and another near the bridge over the River Lee. The neat hedgerow to the garden of the dwelling on an elevated site just inside the nameplate and the Leyllandi hedgerow to another was admired also. Roadside areas to boundary walls of dwellings were presented to varying standards. Try to get all residents involved in looking after the area immediately outside of their boundary wall in addition to their own gardens. Sraith Naomh Ronáin was beautifully painted together with boundary walls here and Cuan Barra is an attractive dwelling also. Some terraced dwellings in the village centre enjoyed a good standard of presentation.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Stone walls throughout Ballingeary are being nicely maintained and were admired as were both bridges, particularly the bridge over An Laoi. Nameplates, Fáilte signs and Slán signs all created a favourable first and last impression of Ballingeary. Planting to a concrete post fencing on one approach road looked well but the bare banks beneath could do with some planting, perhaps ground cover might be considered here. We anticipate the completion of the proposed footpath on an approach road.

General Impression:

Well done on an excellent presentation. Ballingeary is an attractive village enjoying a beautiful natural setting where the commitment of the local community to the environment is evident.

Second Round Adjudication:

