

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballydehob**

Ref: **110**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **249**

Category: **B**

Date: **12/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	25
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	31
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>245</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballydehob is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included your planned work programme and (very useful) before and after photographs. Well done on eliciting the support of the local community and on working in cooperation with your county council and other statutory bodies. Ballydehob enjoys a beautiful location built on an inlet in Roaring Water Bay, affording scenic views of the estuary; your magnificent 12 arch bridge/viaduct is a unique part of your heritage and must look wonderful at night when illuminated. It is interesting to note the connection with Danno the world heavyweight wrestling champion 1935-1936 and the sculpture of him is beautifully executed - he was a fine looking man! The list of improvements which have taken place in Ballydehob over the past year is impressive, cleaning, painting, resurfacing and construction, not to mention landscaping, have all made a significant contribution to the overall appearance of your lovely village; be aware that the more successful you are in the competition the more difficult it is to earn additional marks, Ballydehob is amongst the best performing centres in the country.

### The Built Environment:

The new Supermarket enhances its streetscape and the recent painting of other premises has been observed; both the AIB and Annies premises have been particularly admired for an excellence in presentation; the gable wall of the Vincent Coughlan premises is a nice touch. The majority of buildings are nicely painted to feature a soft colour scheme which is easy on the eye and appropriate

to Ballydehob's setting; thankfully some premises have retained their traditional sash windows and no doubt will continue to do so into the future. The presentation of the school was excellent, but its boundary wall less so. The Community Hall looked really well also.

### **Landscaping:**

The two trees within the school grounds are maturing well and are complemented beautifully by flower beds. The nicely landscaped green open space with its well maintained picnic and recreational area forms an excellent introduction to Ballydehob from the approach road. Landscaped areas throughout the village have been noted for the quality of their visual interest and maintenance including the Community Hall and at the Danno sculpture. Your plan to plant birch trees inside the boundary wall of the church has been noted; we await this development

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The estuary truly is a haven for wild life (to state the obvious); ducks and swans were numerous on adjudication day and being enjoyed by the public. Wild life display boards are a valuable tool for heightening awareness of the presence of wildlife for enjoyment and for the need to protect it from the impact of development works. Your actions to date to protect the flora and fauna of the estuary are appreciated. It is good to note the walkways over the bridge which facilitate public viewing of the wild fowl of the estuary. This adds yet another dimension to the amenity status of Ballydehob. We await the decision regarding the planned wild life garden.

### **Litter Control:**

Apart from the bag of litter which was noted outside of the community park, Ballydehob was litter free on adjudication day, well done!. Congratulations on your performance in the Inter County Village Competition in recent years and to all the volunteers. Your talks with school children together with the poster competition initiative has clearly been effective; one wonders about the source of the bag of litter!

### **Tidiness:**

The proposed relocation of the recycling facility where they can be screened from public view sounds good; ensure however that they remain accessible to all and that they are well signposted. Well done regarding weed control initiatives and the problem posed by scrap cars; improvements have been noted. Ballydehob has an overall appearance of tidiness.

### **Residential Areas:**

Congratulations on the successful outcome regarding your talks with developers on new residential developments particularly with the use of stone as a building material; stone boundary walls to residential properties are part of the heritage of Ballydehob's built environment so it is important that new developments reflect this; new estates are being finished to a high standard and older dwellings continue to impress in their presentation. The mature trees and green open spaces of the residential development on the hilltop in the village centre are an attractive element. Many gardens were admired.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Resurfacing accomplished for the pier is a fine accomplishment; we wish you well in having the tennis courts resurfaced within the short term future. Do not loose heart regarding the overhead service cables, it can take many years of lobbying to have the wirescape obliterated so don't give up. Street furniture is being nicely maintained and stone walls are weed free; verges on approach roads look well also and car-parking is well organised. Another fine performance under this heading.

## **General Impression:**

Once again Ballydehob has not failed to impress. You are making great progress in the competition, keep up the good work.

## **Second Round Adjudication:**

The town looked bright and cheerful on a second adjudication day in August. There is good evidence of fresh painting throughout and many business premises were brightly presented, complete with rich floral displays. We liked the environs of the 12 arch bridge: - this is an important amenity site and was in good use for picnicking during adjudication.. We also paid a visit to the 12 arch Hostel which has been freshly painted with well landscaped environs. Of particular delight was the absence of litter throughout the streets and this is most commendable. We thank you for your submission and useful illustrations of before and after shots. Road structure is good and footpaths were in good repair. Of particular note were the following: Garda Station, National School and adjacent old school. AIB was superb and we also admired many traditional shopfronts. You should continue lobbying for undergorunding overhead cables as they would further raise your standards. Once again, a good performance by Ballydehob.