

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballylickey**

Ref: **224**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **203**

Category: **A**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	26
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	203	197

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballylickey is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission this year which included a summary of your three year beautification plan. It is good to note the support you get from the local community and your regular contact with statutory bodies including the Cork County Council engineer. The village is unusual, being located on a busy national primary route (the N71) and on an inlet in Bantry Bay with ease of access to all the amenity features associated with its magnificent coastal setting. No doubt the high throughput of traffic creates problems for the community and for the Tidy Towns effort. However Ballylickey is being maintained to a high standard which would indicate a strong community spirit and commitment to the environment.

The Built Environment:

The built environment of Ballylickey was presented to a high standard again this year and the Mannings Emporium development looks quite interesting. The Ouvane Falls enjoys a good presentation and the Food Market was neatly presented also (Cronins). The hotels continue with the standard of excellence achieved over the last few years. The difficulty of maintaining roadside facades clean with so much passing traffic is appreciated.

Landscaping:

Roadside verges on the Gougane Barra Road were admired for the well maintained shoulder high hedgerow backed by mature trees. Flower displays on the high stone wall and on the bridge were profuse and colourful. The well landscaped green area at the Glengarrif entrance to Ballylickey is an attractive development also. Well done on the number of container flower displays and maintenance of green areas. Try to ensure in future landscaping plans to place an emphasis on permanent planting rather than an over reliance on bedding plants; choose native species of trees and shrubs over exotics where possible as these will increase the diversity of wildlife habitats. We appreciate your choice is limited due to the need for plants with a high salt and wind tolerance.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We wish you well in your fundraising project for the acquisition of wildlife boards - when provided these will add interest and enhance the wildlife amenity value of Ballylickey. Snave Strand and Pier were simple in presentation which is part of their beauty and what they have to offer - they were in great demand at the time of our visit - the new seating is nicely appointed. We look forward to the provision of attractive signposting on the main road for this wonderful amenity development. The stone wall marking the entrance to the pier/strand looks really well and gives nice enclosure. Has a wildlife survey of the environs of Ballylickey been undertaken? It would be useful to list existing wildlife habitats in order to take necessary protective measures in the event of the further development of Ballylickey.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent notwithstanding the fact that there were many visitors in Ballylickey on adjudication day, those responsible for litter control are to be congratulated. We note from your submission that workers are provided for clean-ups and regular maintenance and volunteers also help. Do submit additional information on your daily and weekly litter control activities as well as your overall litter management strategy as this information could be a source of additional marks under this heading.

Tidiness:

A relatively short stretch of kerb at the southern entrance to the village featured weed growth, thankfully this was not repeated along all kerbs. There was an overall appearance of tidiness in Ballylickey which extended to properties and their side and rear areas, well done.

Residential Areas:

Many dwellings featured beautifully trimmed hedgerow which looked neat, attractive and provides good enclosure; the new residential development The Castle Field looks promising. We note from your submission that you are in constant communication with residents regarding the presentation of their gardens and curtilage areas in general. Residents should also be encouraged to pay attention to the roadside areas to their boundary walls. Hopefully new residents will mean new hands for Tidy Towns work and new members for the committee.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The verges of approach roads to the village were overgrown, however it was not too serious a problem. A more serious consideration was a speed limit sign which was missing which raises safety issues. Nameplates were generally well presented. The hard shoulder was poorly surfaced for most of its stretch. The road surface at the Gougane Barra end of the village was good and the fact that no road markings were in evidence would suggest that it has been recently resurfaced. The nameplate at this end had been knocked over and was lying in the hedgerow; this of course should be reinstated as soon as possible. The wirescape free status of Ballylickey is an attractive feature. Stone walls are generally well presented and weed free. A fair amount of on-street car parking was the cause of some congestion on adjudication day.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Ballylickey is favourable. The amenity features of the village offer a quiet oasis on a busy national primary route.

Second Round Adjudication: