

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyboughal**

Ref: **538**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **238**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	17	18
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	26
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	238	234

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballyboughal is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. The village enjoys a beautiful setting in lush countryside; it is rural in character although located on the edge of the capital city. With numerous planning applications for the development of townhouses and apartments, the character of Ballyboughal could change dramatically over the next few years. The challenge for the committee will be to retain the essential character of Ballyboughal whilst meeting the demands of a twenty first century community. It is good to note the support the Tidy Towns Committee receives from all sections of the community and that you liaise with your County Council, the ESB and other statutory bodies.

The Built Environment:

The church looked especially well on adjudication day and was admired; the public house was quite well presented also. Work in progress opposite the church was noted and completion will hopefully enhance the quality of the built environment of Ballyboughal. The Night Owl Security premises does not look good, improvements are necessary here; the same point can be made for the low building beside the thatched roofed cottage. Congratulations on the presentation of the bridge including the lights, this is a fine achievement.

Landscaping:

Congratulations on the landscaped Memorial Park, it is a most attractive development. Flower displays and hanging baskets were colourful and profuse, particularly at the school. Verges within the village were generally well presented, however those across from the GFC could be maintained a little better. A small corner site across from the recycling point should be landscaped. Well done on work accomplished for the Pitch and Putt facility.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river banks are overgrown one side of the bridge, however we note from your development plan that you will continue to improve the general amenities of the river banks. The river itself was very clean for adjudication. We look forward to the completion of the wildlife sanctuary behind the Memorial Park. Has the committee considered having a wildlife survey carried out? It is very important to establish the flora and fauna of your area and to promote awareness.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent during adjudication, well done. It appears that your anti-litter poster competition has been successful. Of course your litter scouts and the contribution and work on the area have an important part to play in your litter free status. It would be useful to have more information regarding your litter management activities, maybe these could be submitted with next year's application.

Tidiness:

Well done on the recycling point, it was neatly presented in all respects. A number of derelict sites / buildings near the Night Owl Security premises have been noted; hopefully with the demand for good development land these will be short lived. You are quite right in your statement that awareness is so important, and if the village is clean people are far less likely to litter. Your idea to publish a Newsletter to heighten awareness of where the village is at and what you could be doing is commendable. We concur that if you are always working on maintenance then new projects can be difficult to undertake.

Residential Areas:

Ballyboughal Square was magnificent in presentation with well maintained green open spaces, container plants featuring colourful flower displays, trees of every age from young through semi-mature to mature and of course to top it all, quite magnificent gardens; residents here ought to be proud. A terrace of single storey dwellings at the Dublin entrance to the village were admired. Many applications for planning permissions for new developments were noted on the day of adjudication which indicates development pressures for your lovely village. The task facing the committee is to retain your essential character whilst at the same time accommodating new growth. Try to have new residents integrated into the life of the community and involved in the Tidy Towns Competition.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads to Ballyboughal were overgrown at their verges and the nameplate on the Dublin entrance was partially hidden. The verge to the 60km speed limit sign on the Naul road was extremely unsightly. Footpaths throughout the village are quite good and street furniture was quite well presented. Well done on your clean up days for weeding, sweeping and cleaning up banks and hedges etc., You are quite right in that this activity gets people involved and interested in the Tidy Towns Competition as well as getting the big jobs done. These days are also very important for building up a strong community. We note your plan to continue the levelling and cleaning of banks on approach roads. The Corduff finger post is in need of cleaning.

General Impression:

Ballyboughal is an old village with a rich history and even the most casual of visitors get a strong sense of your heritage in the first half hour of walking around your lovely village. It is encouraging for the adjudicators to see your progress to being the best village in Fingal and the third best in County Dublin.

Second Round Adjudication:

Ballyboughal is an attractive rural village that retains a lot of its character; for example the thatched house and the old Ballyboughal National School name stone preserved and landscaped. Work at the School has made good progress since the 1st round adjudication and the gates were being painted during the second visit. At the Village Green the grass here needed cutting and bare patches needed to be re-seeded. On this visit the presentation of the river area was somewhat disappointing. Litter was noted in the river together with a road market beacon. The improvement of the water flow is required here. This area has great potential but attention to detail will be critical. Near the Village Green a vandalised tree was noted at an estate entrance which otherwise looked well. The timber fencing at the open area opposite the factory needs to be repaired and painted with preservative. Watch for litter on some of the approach roads.