

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Balscadden**

Ref: **659**

County: **Dublin**

Mark: **190**

Category: **A**

Date: **05/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	23
The Built Environment	40	26	22
Landscaping	40	26	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	25	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	17
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	190	168

Overall Developmental Approach:

Balscadden is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your excellent submission which included your planned work programme. It was most informative and made interesting reading. We wish you well in its implementation. Congratulations on the awards won from Fingal County Council which included second place for Best Presented Village. Your regular liaison with Fingal County Council in relation to the implementation of your plan is effective. Also effective are your communication techniques with the community at large, such as advertisements, mail drops, posters, flyers and most importantly feedback to the community on your progress through the local news column. Well done on your fund-raising activities including sponsorship and on achieving the close co-operation of both Fingal County Council and Rural Dublin LEADER. Congratulations on a handsome increase in marks this year.

The Built Environment:

The presentation of the school, the church and the public house is excellent; well done to all involved in this achievement. Solid gates are suggested to provide greater enclosure to the commercial yards in the village. Well done also on the painting of the Community Hall. We note your future plans under this heading in relation to a feasibility study for a heritage centre and the development of a children's play area for 2008 and 2009 and commend you for the proposed improved access to the Community Hall and footpath widening.

Landscaping:

Landscaping in the school grounds was excellent. Congratulations also on the maintenance of all green public areas. Container plants were colourful and profuse and we applaud the planting of bulbs for seasonal interest. Hopefully the oak tree planned for the green will form part of Balscadden's heritage for future generations. Your initiative to adopt a particular species of plant to represent the area is creative and we look forward to hearing from you in this regard next year. Do try wherever possible to choose native species as these are valuable for wildlife.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We note the absence of a reference to the stream in relation to your plans under this heading. Might it be possible to feature this natural amenity and its wildlife? We applaud the possibility of a butterfly garden involving school children and of course the planting of bird friendly berry bushes. We look forward to the development of the proposed wildlife trail incorporating local historical places of interest and the continued planting of native wildflowers.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent on adjudication day, well done. We note your objective for 2006 is to develop a definitive litter control plan and we urge you to submit this with next year's application as this could be source of additional marks. Congratulations on the involvement of the local schools and indeed the entire community in your clean up competitions and clean up days respectively.

Tidiness:

The recycling point was tidy and indeed presented to a standard of excellence, well done. A derelict out-house near the church and car park is in need of attention. Keep us informed of your liaison with Fingal County Council regarding the presentation of the motorway bridge area and bilingual sign for the recycling facilities. The overall appearance of Balscadden is one of tidiness, well done.

Residential Areas:

The majority of residential properties are presented to a high standard. Dwellings were attractive and many gardens were admired. Keep people informed of the need to present their boundary walls and areas immediately outside of boundary walls to the same high standard as their own properties.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

A lot of work accomplished under this heading. Stone walls are being neatly maintained and presented and grassed areas on approach roads look well also. The new granite namestones are beautiful and the bridge, a handsome feature, looked well also. Your plan to uncover and feature the three holy wells by 2007 is ambitious and we look forward to adjudicating same. The continued exposure of stone walls is applauded. Might we suggest a finger post for the village on the main road?

General Impression:

Balscadden is a beautiful village that enjoys the commitment of the community to its presentation and to improving the quality of life for all. Well done on a handsome increase in marks this year.