

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballycahill**

Ref: **222**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **230**

Category: **A**

Date: **12/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	36	35
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	28	29
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	230	228

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballycahill Tidy Village Committee obviously submitted a work programme for last year's competition, as reference is made to it in the report. However, this was not submitted with this year's application. Do ensure that you submit your work programme every year, in order that adjudicators may assess how you are progressing. You make reference to a leaflet written by the local school children in relation to areas of interest in the locality - perhaps you could submit this with next year's application also. Your application form outlines the work that you have achieved to date over the last year quite clearly. Many thanks for your very clear map which was most useful on the day.

The Built Environment:

The charming thatched cottages are a very distinct and memorable part of the village's structure. One incorporates the thatched pub and the other - D. Long's - they are mavelous features to have in the village and should be maintained at all costs. The school looked well. Indeed there was much activity in that area as it appeared to be the last day of school and a sports day seemed to be taking place as the whole school marched down to the GAA grounds! Work also appears to be taking place to the church where a number of windows were boarded up. However, no reference was made to this in your application. The magnificent stone walls to the graveyard give the village a unique and distinctive charm and these were well maintained. The Community Centre was quite fresh with new galvanised gates and the stone wall at the top of the GAA ground was admired for its overflowing

daisies on top. The Post Office was quite simply presented.

Landscaping:

Planting in front of the school and further along the main road looked well with snapdragons etc. As mentioned in last year's report, the car parking area opposite the church appears quite jaded and in need of an injection of some colour and freshness - the cordelines were looking quite yellow. Evidence of dumping was found in this locality in the form of matting and a large pile of set concrete. The Village Green is magnificent with its splendid grassy space and planting. However, the adjudicator felt the white post and chain surround was somewhat superfluous - could this be replaced with stone bollards or boulders? The grotto looked quite charming and was freshly painted and well maintained.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You make reference to the local school children planning and planting a wildlife garden at the school - has this happened as it was not apparent on the day? If so what form has it taken? Is it a wildflower garden as planned - a bird table was evident in the school grounds.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was generally quite good, although litter was apparent on the Thurles Road, at the Upperchurch Road and in the car park opposite the church. These were minor outbreaks and the village generally looked quite litter free.

Tidiness:

Weed control was a problem on the Thurles Road. A gateway and derelict cottage on the Upperchurch Road created a bad impression and should be attended to before next year's competition. The recycling area seemed quite neat - have you considered a landscaping project in this area? Something to surround the bins and screen them in some way in order to blend them more successfully with their surroundings. There is a new award in the competition for such areas that are correctly sited and suitably landscaped.

Residential Areas:

The standard in this category was generally good. On the Thurles Road a beautiful garden with stone wall and planted bed in front, reflecting the marvellous sense of colour within the garden itself was filled with poppies and other colourful flowers. Attractive boundary stone walling and gardens on the Upperchurch Road were admired, as was a display of snapdragons to the front of a house on the Cashel Road. As people maintain areas within their own sphere of influence, this is even more laudable! The magnificent garden adjacent to the church was admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Bouladuff Road, the village nameplate had been damaged and was quite bent. Road surfaces throughout were in bad condition and the adjudicator was pleased to hear that you are in discussions with North Tipperary County Council in relation to this. On the Thurles Road, the village nameplate did not appear to be visible - is it in place? These nameplates are essential in order to give the visitor a sense of arrival to the village. Weeds were apparent at the base of a stone wall and there was evidence of littering. On the Upperchurch Road the stone walling should be repaired in places, although the hedgerows were fine. The phonebox and other items of street furniture were neatly presented. On the Cashel Road, the speed limit sign was slightly obscured in places and the children crossing sign was quite grubby. A new footpath was under construction on the day.

General Impression:

Ballycahill is an attractive and busy small village. You need to be ever vigilant in order to maintain the high levels achieved in the past. In some areas, such as the landscaping opposite the church car park, the village seemed a little jaded in its presentation. Good luck in all your future work.

Second Round Adjudication:

On the day of 2nd round adjudication village signs seemed to be absent or inconspicuous, and this is an issue that you should consider. The standard of maintenance of the Village Green is being maintained and this is a most attractive area at the Holycross junction. More major work appeared to be underway at the Catholic Church on the day of this adjudicator's visit, and hopefully this will include appropriate landscaping works on the grounds. The car parking area opposite the Church still looked rather tired and not maintained on adjudication day. Less planting here would be more effective together with the addition of some colour and different plant textures. The two long timber poles in this area should be removed. The Recycling area was poorly presented with five overflowing boxes of rubbish. The presentation of approach roads was quite uneven. Some did not appear to have had any recent work while in contrast the Holycross approach road looked quite well. It was noted that the thatched roof of one of the cottages appears to need attention and these cottages are fine features that add so much character to Ballycahill.