

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballycommon Tidy Village**

Ref: **544**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **197**

Category: **A**

Date: **03/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	
The Built Environment	40	29	
Landscaping	40	22	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	
Litter Control	40	27	
Tidiness	20	13	
Residential Areas	30	20	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	
General Impression	10	7	
TOTAL MARK	300	197	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your very professional submission which contained an index and typed titles to maps and photographs! You certainly seem to have had a busy year with your An Taisce spring clean, participation in the Golden Mile competition and achievement of a Green Flag at the school! Your Three to Five Year Plan outlines your aims and objectives for the village but appears to be quite general. For next year's competition try to be more specific in terms of your proposals and aims and set a timeframe against their achievement within a given period - set targets! You mention a colour scheme that you have chosen for the village - perhaps you could send in further details of this next year? Many thanks for your maps of the landscape proposals for the centre of the village and the route for getting to the mill, both of which were most useful on the day. However, the adjudicator was puzzled as to the actual area that you wanted to be focussed on - for example does it include the church and school? Perhaps for next year's competition you can draw a map outlining the extent of your work in physical terms.

The Built Environment:

The Thatched Cottage Inn looked quite charming although a couple of its outbuildings appeared quite patchy and the kerb to the planted bed at the entrance to the car park will need repainting before next year's competition. Molloy's petrol station and the Muintir na Tire Hall was also fine. Perhaps some landscaping could be considered to the latter's forecourt area to soften its somewhat harsh effect? Weeds had obviously been sprayed at the boundary wall but the dead weeds had not

been removed. Its signs appears a little patchy and its gate rusty, so these should be dealt with before next year's competition. The charming church at Carrig was admired but will need repainting before next year. The adjacent school was very fresh and sports an elaborately carved limestone nameplate. However, some weeds were apparent to its flat roof area. These two buildings in their own distinct location were well maintained.

Landscaping:

The Ballyartella bridge area looked well although its associated problems with litter control will be discussed elsewhere in this report. The timber planters in front of the Muintir na Tire hall were admired. The farm machinery in its landscaped location outside the pub should be repainted before next year's competition. The attractive planting at the crossroads was admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Ballycommon is indeed fortunate with its marvellous riverside walk - Sli Eala or the Way of the Swans. Chaffinches were spotted in the car park area on the day! Your maintenance of a wildlife area at the Muintir na Tire hall is commendable. Do consider potential projects in this category of the competition and involve the local school children. This could take the form of building bird tables, bird boxes or bat boxes or a wildlife survey of the habitats in the area or the planting of a wild flower garden. Do consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for further ideas in this category of the competition.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day could have been better. A light scattering was evident on the road to the Ballymartella Mill and then quite a bit was evident on arrival at riverside garden and its associated car park across the road. This was unfortunate as a sign in the car park expressed a nice sentiment "leave nothing behind but your footsteps". Sadly this has been ignored. One or two items were also to be seen in the river itself. The odd paper was also evident on the main street of the village.

Tidiness:

The signage to the church appeared a little damaged and should be attended to before next year's competition. Weed control has been mentioned elsewhere in this report but was a minor issue. The storage of both furniture in the form of chairs and building materials in the form of concrete blocks was evident to the car park area of the pub. Could these be screened in some way or internal storage be found for them? Besides these items the village generally looked quite neat.

Residential Areas:

The appealing cottage at the crossroads with all its original features including half door was greatly admired. Is it occupied? It would be marvellous if it could be restored to its former glory including the retention of all of its original features! Even if for next year's competition you were to tidy up its outbuildings in the form of painting them it would make a real difference. The attractive houses on road to the church were admired - one on the far side with flowers extending over its boundary wall appeared very cheerful. A house on a hillside leading down to the Mill looked most attractive with rose bushes leading up to it.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

In terms of signage, the Children Crossing sign was turned the wrong way on the road to the school. Besides this, signage was generally quite good, apart from the signage for the church as mentioned previously. The Nenagh Road was a little overgrown and weeds were apparent at a new house and one under construction - hopefully this will be rectified in the not too distant future as soon as

construction work is complete. The Dromineer Road was better but do bear in mind bird nesting times when cutting back hedgerows. Weeds were evident at the kerbside - but construction work appeared to be taking place at the footpath in this location as there were orange cones evident and the footpath itself appeared rather temporary in nature. Verges to the front of houses were generally well maintained. The road to the church appeared somewhat overgrown. Honeysuckle and daisies and other wildflowers were evident in the hedgerows on the road to the Mill. This road surface was not in the best of condition.

General Impression:

Ballycommon is a village whose residents show an obvious care and pride in its appearance to judge by your very comprehensive submission and professional approach. However, on the day it appeared somewhat inconsistent in presentation. Hopefully for next year's competition you can drum up additional support on the ground for your efforts.