

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballydesmond** Ref: **91**
County: **Cork (North)** Mark: **172**
Category: **A** Date(s): **20/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	22
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	172

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator was a little puzzled by the fact that you mention in your application form this is your first year of entry as there appeared to be an adjudication report from last year! Your village renewal map proved most useful on the day. A plan was asked from you in last year's report. Perhaps you could include one for next year? You could use the village renewal report from 1999 and the Tidy Towns reports from the last few years in order to draw it up. The adjudicator was delighted to hear that the prefabs are going as they appear quite unsightly at the moment. You will need to work on your relationship with the local community as you appear to suggest that it is not as strong as it could be. You appear to have a good working relationship with Clar Duhallow, Cork County Council and Rathmore Credit Union.

The Built Environment:

Buildings of the town generally looked very well on the day in the centre of the town but deteriorated somewhat further out. The Church in stone looks quite imposing in its prominent location looking down on the town. As mentioned by last year's adjudicator you should consider landscaping the car park area as this has proved successful in other nearby centres. The gates to the graveyard appeared quite rusty and should be attended to before next year's competition. The School looked very fresh in peach. The Post Office looked fresh and Shamrock House is a very charming shopfront. There were attractive window boxes to properties. John D's Bar looked well as did Denny Matties. The traditional stepped gabled garage looked very fresh and is most unusual. The Centra was quite fresh as was the Credit Union. Construction work seemed to be taking place at the Community Hall and field area on the day.

Landscaping:

The picnic area looked fine with its precast concrete table and chairs but its grass appeared a little overgrown. The stone monument at the Nora Herlihy Park and Community Centre was admired but this area as

mentioned previously in this report appeared to be undergoing some construction work. Trees planted along the Main Street a number of years ago are really coming into their own! You mention plans for a new playground and to restore the bridge at the west end of the village and this will certainly be very interesting to see when complete. The tree planting along the football field will pay dividends in years to come incorporated as it is into the riverside walk which was being well used on the day. Good luck with your plans to extend this along to the west end bridge.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The riverside walk was being used on the day but the entrance area appears quite rough and construction work appeared to be taking place. Have you considered erecting a wildlife information board or finger post signs to make visitors aware of its existence. Last year's adjudicator mentioned the possibility of getting the school children to draw up a wildlife survey and you could use this to form the basis of your wildlife board.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was reasonable but there were problem areas at the car park of the Community Centre and on the road by the Church and the School.

Waste Minimisation:

Your recycling bins showed evidence of dumping where plastic bags had been left behind – this was a problem last year also. The adjudicator was pleased to see that the School is involved in the green flag programme – what is their progress? The idea behind this category of the competition is to make local residents, businesses and schools aware of what recycling is about and the importance of segregation of litter. You could consider running seminars in relation to this and also ones on composting.

Tidiness:

The standard in this category on the day was reasonable. Perhaps the yard area to the precast concrete works could be more successfully screened from public view? Weeds were evident at the kerbs on the Kiskeam approach and to the rear of the wall to the car park area of the church -staining was also evident in this location.

Residential Areas:

Houses in the village centre and along approach roads were generally well maintained. New houses were evident on the Kiskeam Road at the lower level to the road and these were well presented. Some street houses were not as fresh as most but for the most part looked well. The houses on the Church Road were admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As mentioned by last year's adjudicator these appeared a little bit neglected. Do ensure that you strike a balance in order to achieve a natural appearance to approach roads. The Kiskeam Road appeared slightly overgrown. Directional signs on the far side of the bridge on the Castle-Island Road appeared quite grubby. Main Street looked quite bright and colourful when viewed from this side of the village. The children crossing sign appeared quite faded and the Duhallow sign was quite unreadable on the New Market Road as it was facing in the wrong direction. Directional signs on this road appeared quite grubby also. The footpaths to the Church from the village on New Market Road were noted and must be of great benefit to the local school children particularly in the dark winter time. The interesting stones with townland names were noted and admired.

General Impression:

Ballydesmond is an attractive village which was most interesting to visit on the day. Do draw up a work programme for next year's competition in order to give yourselves the opportunity to see where your strengths and weaknesses lie.