

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Ballyou skill** Ref: **388**  
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **240**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **28/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>240</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Ballyou skill is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission this year. We note your success in the Pride of Place and the use to which the prize money was put; we wish you well with the restoration of the Priest Well and look forward to enjoying this on future visits. Ballyou skill is a charming village situated in idyllic rural setting and all the implications are that the community are most proud of their home place. We look forward to many repeat visits and to charting your progress in the competition

### **The Built Environment:**

The freshly painted walls of the graveyard and walls in the vicinity in white with the virgin blue trim is most appealing. Most buildings are well presented and the community hall with the sign for Barrow Nore Sure Rural Development had been recently painted at the time of our visit. Perhaps now its car parking area can be resurfaced with some public seating featured. It is suggested that the walls leading down to road by the community hall be planted with a climbing plant for greater coverage. The Ring Public House and adjoining residential property look well, however we would encourage you to change the dated Guinness sign.

### **Landscaping:**

Flower displays were noted at a number of sites at entrances to the village and within the village centre itself, all were colourful and profuse and there was a great variety, well done on this initiative. Flower displays at the name plates looked especially well. We do urge you to keep the village with a rural theme and to plant indigenous species at all times in your landscaping programme. The planting of white thorn hedgerow is an excellent initiative in this respect.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Well done on the roadside bed of wild flowers; on the day of adjudication poppies were in full bloom and were a joy to behold. When you recover and reintroduce the binding stone to the village centre we suggest you add an all-weather vandal proof interpretative panel in order to explain its use to the uninitiated. Reference has already been made to the whitethorn planting and this valuable initiative will reintroduce valuable wildlife habitat to the village, which may have diminished with road widening in the past. Some consideration should be given to conducting a wildlife survey of the village and its surroundings, and providing the findings on an interpretative panel.

#### **Litter Control:**

Everyone involved in the early morning and evening litter picking controls during the summer months is to be commended for their commitment to the environment and to the appearance of their village in particular. The village was litter free on the day of adjudication and we appreciate the amount of work in this.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Congratulations on the acquisition of the bring bank; as noted already the surroundings are very tidy and the board is legible. We also wish you well with your ideas on composting. Your local authority should provide good advice and support on developing this project, so please continue to consult your local authority in relation to community composting to ensure you don't breach any environmental regulations in this area. Be as creative as possible in coming up with new ways of minimising waste.

#### **Tidiness:**

The village was very tidy at the time of our visit; well done, the recycling point looks particularly well with no dumping in surrounding areas. Weed growth has been kept to a minimum and most premises and yards display a tidy curtilage area.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Residential properties are beautifully presented and most boundary walls and gardens are a credit to their owners. The boundary wall is a work in progress at one premises and should look good on its completion. We await the outcome of the compost bins initiative and their use by residents.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Ballyouskill is a beautiful village and is well signposted from main roads, name plates are clear, clean and nicely presented. We note that you are exploring the possibility of having service cables ducted and public lighting featured on attractive lampstandards, we wish you well in this initiative and understand that it may take some time yet before it comes to fruition. Street furniture in particular looked quite well. The verges of approach roads are being maintained to a really high standard

#### **General Impression:**

The overall impression of Ballyouskill is a charming village where the commitment of the entire community to their village is strong.