

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballacolla** Ref: **407**
County: **Laois** Mark: **272**
Category: **A** Date(s): **05/08/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	272

Overall Development Approach:

Ballacolla Tidy Towns Committee is certainly a hard-working and dedicated one. Many thanks for your submission which was marvellously visual, giving the adjudicator a clear and succinct picture of your achievements in recent years! Your work programme seems achievable and sensible.

The Built Environment:

The commercial properties in the village were generally freshly presented on the day. Of note were: the post office, the Hawthorn in yellow and Hayes's Bar in red. The school looked reasonably fresh but its gable was not to the same standard. The boundary wall and green trims at steps etc will also need painting before next year's competition, as they looked rather flaky. The church was well presented, as was its associated graveyard. The new stone walling in this location was admired. The small Garda Station looked quite fresh. The community field was busy on the day and its associated new sports centre looked fresh. This area including parking and bottle banks was well landscaped.

Landscaping:

The before and after photographs give a clear picture of what has been achieved in this regard. The new tiered timber flower displays were admired. Do remember that permanent planting and tree planting are really what will stand the test of time and look well year round! The new timber deck and modern seating in steel and timber looked well. Planting at the crossroads makes a real impact. The school water feature and garden certainly sounded like a fun project for all and a great means for a native son to contribute meaningfully to the his own village! The long strip of planting on the Abbeyleix road near the old national school looked well. The marvellous picnic area on the Borris in Ossory road was admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Hawthorn Wildlife Park is a marvellous amenity to have developed and must be of great interest to the local children, particularly due to the pheasant chicks! The planting of insect attracting plants is certainly paying off, as many bees were evident on the day!

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was excellent! Well done to all concerned. The odd paper was evident on approach road and on the grassy pathway leading up to the Hawthorn Wildlife Park.

Waste Minimisation:

Your work in this regard is of the highest standards. The encouragement of the local school children in the Green Flag Programme is commendable. They certainly seem to have many good ideas, which could be extended to the community as a whole! The wormery is another fine project. The recycling area was quite neatly presented with no evidence of dumping.

Tidiness:

The village generally had a neat and ordered appearance on the day. The empty padlocked cottage looks somewhat unfortunate but hopefully its prospects will be improved in the not too distant future. Weed control measures and monitoring of fly posting are evidently paying off, as neither was evident on the day.

Residential Areas:

Houses along the approach roads and in the village centre were well maintained. The work to the road surface in the housing estate is commendable.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approaches to the village are generally reasonably well maintained. The grass verges on the Durrow approach looked quite immaculate and the Failte sign in box hedging was admired. Mature trees in this location intersperse with newly planted ones, which obviously supplement the originals. The stone nameplate was admired. Verges and hedgerows on the Borris in Ossory road looked well.

General Impression:

Ballacolla looked very well on the day and a scent of turf lent it a somewhat nostalgic air.