

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballycumber** Ref: **616**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **220**
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	27
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	220

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the comprehensive application form, which was extremely well put together, and the supplemental material in support of your application.

Good to note that comments made in last year's report in relation to engaging with relevant bodies has been acted upon.

The interaction between the Committee, Offaly County Council and the greater community in the area will pay off as the village, which is quite busy traffic wise, will make good progress generally and in this competition in the years ahead.

The Built Environment:

The plans for a new community premises are noted and this is very good idea as it would bring a greater sense of community partnership to the village.

In last years report it was suggested the Village should be considered for a village renewal programme and this has been acted upon very speedily so I wish you well in your endeavours.

Overall there is a slight improvement in the standard in this section although there are a few areas that are nearing chronic dereliction and are in need of immediate remedial action.

Healy's Bar and the surrounds are quickly falling into an untidy state in a prime position in the village.

Mealiffs Bar has a nice appeal if it was refurbished a little, even if the sign could be improved it would make a huge difference.

The Church Graveyard and School were all in good condition and full marks to those entrusted with their upkeep.

The private public partnership that brought about the renovation of the out of school service building is very praise worthy so well done to all involved.

There are some nice private residences that give the village a pleasant look, especially the stone faced one across from the Corner House.
Will look forward to visiting village in years to come and seeing the fruits of village renewal in place.

Landscaping:

There were nice little planting arrangements observed at various vantage points.
The arrangement at the Tullamore entrance has the desired effect of giving a welcoming look to Ballycumber. The use of planters is very effective and the appearance of the aforementioned Corner House has been improved by the placing of colourful tubs in front.
The hanging baskets leading up to Sycamore Drive also give a good first impression to the viewer of what is in store.
There were also a number of very impressive individual gardens to be seen, this is the community member's contribution to making the village as a whole a more attractive place to live in and to visit.
Your plans to identify and add further prudently placed arrangements at other vantage points will be an additional bonus to the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The area has a number of ideal habitats especially along the excellent amenity that is the riverside park. Acting upon advice given in last years report your plans to engage with Wildlife Ranger and other relevant bodies and indeed local experts is very praise worthy.
You are to be commended for ensuring that the school children will be involved as these are the adults of the future and this will give them a sense of pride in their native place.

Litter Control:

Litter control was quite good but be vigilant as even in a village as small as Ballycumber there are a number of potential black spots for instance at the bridge and the amenity area some litter was evident.
Keep the message of good litter control to the forefront as outlined in your submission.

Waste Minimisation:

It was noted that the School has achieved a green flag and this is no mean achievement so congratulations to teaches and pupils alike.
The Committee has embraced the concept behind the Race Against Waste Management programme and its importance in minimising waste to help the environment.
The booklet included with the original package serves as a good tool for the generating of further ideas and projects for the future. So we will look forward to additional projects prior to next year's competition.

Tidiness:

The recycling centre is in a good location and was very tidy with no additional items strewn around as one often finds some similar facilities.
The message of having a tidy village goes hand in hand with litter control and the Committee is doing its utmost to put this to the forefront.
It is up to the residents to help by keeping properties in good condition and surrounding areas clean and tidy. There are a few untidy little black spots on the road to Ferbane which the committee needs to be aware of.

Residential Areas:

The residential areas that constitute what is considered as housing estates were presented to a high standard. So the residents of Twickenham (As a Munster rugby follower I am curious as to how the name come about? No doubt a local landlord from a different era) and the very pleasant and colourful Sycamore Drive deserve credit for the work put into presenting their homesteads and communal areas to such a high standard.
The village itself has very well presented private residences, but it is hoped that areas around new houses just built will be tidied up quickly.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main entrances in to the Village were very well presented and inviting and the footpath extension on the Ferbane side improves matters for locals who want access that end of the village.

The signs were visible and clean and link roads,including the one to Rahan,were acceptable.
The ongoing links with Offaly County Council will ensure that this is category that will get attention when required.

General Impression:

It was nice to come back to Ballycumber and see that efforts are being made to effect change. One can see the difference in such a short time and you as a committee are to be commended for this.
The Village has its own unique attractions and these should be exploited to the full.
We wish you well for the future.