

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballycotton** Ref: **96**
County: **Cork (South)** Mark: **223**
Category: **B** Date(s): **03/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	223

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed entry form and map which is often required during adjudication. Among many delightful features of this centre are the dry fill walls of vertical stones. This is most attractive albeit that in places they were obscured and or marred by weeds and grass. The road was neatly swept from about mid point to the small harbour but not before. The thatch cottage beside the school entrance with window boxes looked very well. Another fine example was noted after the Catholic Church in Old Road. There was a very well presented, freshly painted house here also. We allowed for the disruption occasioned by the major work in progress at the harbour. Where ever possible encourage the building of infill houses along the lengthy main road. This practice over time will help to create an agreeable sense of continuity and enhance the streetscape. The old Garda station now needs to be sold, refurbished and restored to gainful use as soon as possible.

The Built Environment:

The former Church of Ireland was very well presented, while the Lifeguard (Ballycotton Unit) headquarters needs to repaint their large door and also tidy up the ground around the building. The national school looked exceptional with vibrant colours, red over a green base showing off the building to best effect. The Sean McGrath traditional shop front looked very well while the Schooner Tavern was well presented. The large Catholic Church, Star of the Sea, (1901) was itself looking imposing but the pathway surrounding it and the steps up from the main street had a number of weeds growing which distracted. The Bay View Hotel was excellently presented while the RNLI station was keep to perfection.

Landscaping:

The sea wall project is currently impacting greatly on the upper end of the village. The tennis courts were in good order. At the car park of the church, repaint the black and white walls and remove an amount of traffic spoil from the base. The coastal path looked inviting as did the well laid out and maintained grounds of the

Hotel. The Grotto and related seating was in good order and all very well presented

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The proximity to the sea and the relatively elevated topography of the village makes it ideal for those with an interest in sea birds and bird life generally. The fine and informative poster, Birds And Wildlife Of Ballycotton, is becoming faded and increasingly difficult to read. It should be replaced before next year's competition. Discuss with a local bird and wild life enthusiast the development of a suitable programme, perhaps in association with the school to encourage the upcoming generation to develop an interest in bird and wildlife.

Litter Control:

Litter is still a problem in the centre. Litter was noted round the seats at the grotto and along the steps up to the Church. There is a good supply of suitably designed and appropriately located litter bins so it is more a matter of education and persuasion rather than requiring the provision of additional bins.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling facility in the car-park is very unsightly with many informal notices and crudely painted warnings on them. The entire area is decidedly non professional and untidy and urgently needs to be upgraded. There is a need to approach the whole question of waste reduction in a more structured manner if the goal of significantly less waste material being hauled to land fill sites in the future is to be achieved. Consult the Tidy Towns Book and the literature from the Race against waste for ideas and suggestions.

Tidiness:

Weeds and grass between the road and pavement and at base of walls is perhaps the biggest single difficulty you have to overcome. It was noted in many locations. A number of houses appear to be abandoned or clearly in need of care and maintenance. The shed in ruins overlooking the sea is on a most attractive setting and site which is surely suitable for a more appropriate use. The deep blue hording screening the extensive work in progress overlooking the harbour is being maintained to a very good standard.

Residential Areas:

The bright new houses, in the terrace in Old Lane were delightful, full of colour in a co-ordinated scheme. Ballyandreen Road private houses were well presented. Some projected the half neglected air of summer only use and were in need of care and maintenance. Ard na Hinch Bay estate had varying standards with some making a real effort in their presentation. The new houses on Cloyne / Middleton Road with tall stone walls looked well.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road surfaces on approach roads were in good order and traffic and speed limit signs were well presented. The steep Ballyandreen Road provides many fine views over the bay far below. One of the 50kn signs is missing. The road to the harbour is swept, neat and well presented

General Impression:

It always a pleasure to visit this agreeable, sea side village, which retains so much of the trappings, flavour and feel of a different age. Once the major work on the harbour area is complete and the new houses there occupied no doubt the village will continue to enthral, captivate and attract increasing numbers of visitors. All associated with this year's entry are thanked for their efforts.