

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballycorris**

Ref: **1326**

County: **Dublin (Dun
Laoghaire-Rathdown)**

Mark: **188**

Category: **D**

Date(s): **17/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	22
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	188

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Ballycorris to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition. Your participation is important to the competition and we wish you every success in the future. Ballycorris is an attractive part of rural south County Dublin that despite surrounding development has managed to retain some character. A key objective of the Tidy Towns Committee should be to make sure that this character is not eroded in the future by unsuitable development. An early committee task is to check on the official boundaries of Ballycorris as these will be used for future Tidy Towns adjudication purposes.

The Built Environment:

The built environment apart from residential development in Ballycorris is largely confined to the Golf Course, the attractive Church on Ballycorris Road and some other buildings. The Golf Course car park was attractively presented and high maintenance standards were evident. At the beginning of Mine Hill Lane an attractive castellated entrance to a group of buildings was noted. The large scale signage attached to the wall at the entrance is a little out of scale and detracts from the attractive Granite walls here.

Landscaping:

Some good private landscaping was noted. The Tidy Towns Committee might see if there is potential to create a number of small low maintenance landscaped areas in Ballycorris that would add some summer colour.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The rural nature of Ballycorris obviously must attract wildlife. It is suggested that your Tidy Towns Committee

might examine the wildlife potential, and see what you can achieve in terms of making the Ballycorus area even more wildlife friendly.

If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat survey carried out of the wildlife in your area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges

Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks

Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to the Ballycorus area. This need not be an expensive survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person locally who might undertake this task for you. Basically the survey would identify the animals plants and birds that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year. Using the results of the wildlife survey your next step should be to draft a straight forward Plan for Ballycorus to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. Ultimately your objective is to encourage the existing wildlife to stay in the Ballycorus area and encourage new species to move in. This can only be done by creating an awareness of the feeding and shelter needs of the various species in the area. It is most important to try and involve local school children in this project, and in many schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get involved. As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

Litter Control:

Litter was noted in a number of locations including Mine Hill Lane and Puck's Castle Lane. It is recommended that the Committee reviews with the Local Authority the litter collection measures that apply to these areas. In practical terms the best solution may be for the Tidy Towns Committee with local helpers to carry out a clean up from time to time where the Local Authority may be able to assist.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a new category in the Tidy Towns Competition first introduced in 2006. The purpose of this new category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Marks can be gained by Ballycorus for the promotion of best practice. This can include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean up events. The organising of a Workshop on waste minimisation in your area is another initiative that you might consider. This could be held on a waste minimisation community awareness day as part of a series of local initiatives. Your local schools should also be involved with their own waste minimisation projects. In regard to waste minimisation it is important to remember that quite small actions can sometimes have a significant waste reduction impact. If you do not already have a Bring Bank Centre or if you have one that is not yet properly signposted from the town centre then such initiatives could gain additional marks for your centre in 2008.

Tidiness:

Ballycorus was generally found to be generally quite tidy apart from the presentation of some of the roads and laneways in the area. Some dumping was noted in a few locations along Puck's Castle lane.

Residential Areas:

The residential areas examined especially along Ballycorus Road were well presented and good mature private landscaping featured in many locations.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Ivy covered banks and walls along Ballycorus Road were much admired and the Ivy should always be retained where possible. Very well presented grass margins were examined near the junction with Mill Hill Lane though some of the edging timber was damaged. Some clean up work on Mine Hill Lane should reveal the attractive Wicklow Granite stone walls that are so characteristic of the area. There appears to be good potential for attractive road presentation where Mine Hill Lane narrows beyond the junction to Sutton Lane as some trees and shrubs have already been planted here. Some thinning out of the shrubs may be necessary. There is potential for some good verge presentation along Puck's Castle Lane towards the Golf Course. Heronford Lane needed a lot of work as banks were overgrown and some trimming back would make a lot of difference in presentation terms.

General Impression:

It is great to have Ballycorus in the Tidy Towns Competition and the adjudicator wishes you well with your plans for 2008.