

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyboughal** Ref: **155**
County: **Dublin (Fingal)** Mark: **252**
Category: **A** Date(s): **11/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	252

Overall Development Approach:

Ballyboughal is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included your three year plan 2007-2010. Your desire to work out a long term strategy for the development of the village is wise and we look forward to this. On the day of adjudication work in progress on a new commercial/retail/residential development was noted. In addition to three other development sites, these should make a significant impact on Ballyboughal when completed. Do try to have the village sign- posted from the motorway as Ballyboughal is quite difficult to find. The setting of the village against a backdrop of beautiful countryside is an asset and Ballyboughal complements its environment/hinterland.

The Built Environment:

Public buildings in Ballyboughal are well presented for the most part and both the stone church and old national school have great character. The school and its grounds were neatly presented also. The public house which does not have an identification sign is an important focal point within the village and the adjudicator feels that more could be achieved for its presentation, a good start would be to remove the dated beer sign. The roadside boundary wall to the Nightowl Security premises could be cleaned and/or repainted. Well done on work accomplished to date under this heading.

Landscaping:

Your Memorial Garden is an excellent feature located as it is in the centre of the village however the seat here is partially hidden which is a pity; perhaps it could be relocated to a more prominent position. Hedgerow backed by mature trees on approach roads are an excellent introduction to Ballyboughal. The Pitch and Putt course looks really well and we look forward to the landscaping at the GAA pitch. The formal landscaping of residential developments is excellent.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The small stream is a most attractive feature of Ballyboughal and is of course an important habitat for wildlife together with its banks; the reverse side of the interpretative panel could be used for wildlife information pertaining to the stream and its banks, the adjudicator enjoyed reading detail of hedgerow management and wildlife on the first side, a gratitude is acknowledge to the Hedgerow Society. Well done on your bird boxes initiative.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent in Ballyboughal on the day of adjudication. We note from your submission that you plan to run an anti-litter poster competition with the schools as this was successful in the past; do submit the winning poster or posters with next year's entry as this can be instrumental in achieving additional marks. Well done to the litter squads.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling point was neatly presented, well done yet again. We wish you well with your newsletter initiative in relation to waste minimisation, particularly to litter segregating and composting. Do keep in mind that the overall aim of this section of the competition is to identify the amount of waste generated by the community and to find ways of reducing this in addition to recycling activities.

Tidiness:

With so much development work in progress in Ballyboughal, a certain amount of untidiness is inevitable, however you have not been penalised for this as we are aware that upon the completion of construction work these problems will be resolved. No doubt the standard of finish to new developments will be excellent particularly at the roadside boundaries. An untidy site located beside the Campus garage is problematic.

Residential Areas:

Your plan to reintroduce the local Best Garden Competition is a worthwhile initiative and we look forward to the fruits of your effort. Ballyboughal Square has achieved a degree of excellence in its presentation which would be difficult to beat, the riverside development at the top of the Corduff Road is attractive also. A third unidentified development at the southern entrance to the village looks well. The commitment of residents to their homeplace is evident.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Footpaths and roads throughout the village are well surfaced for the most part and the wirescape is not too visually obtrusive. The bridge however could benefit from refurbishment. Approach roads were left in their natural state but looked fine however the name plate on the southern entrance was partially hidden with overgrowth and will need to be highlighted more. The name plate on the Corduff entrance looks really well. The Oldtown Road is less well surfaced than other roads. Name stones are an attractive feature of Ballyboughal.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Ballyboughal is one of an attractive village where the commitment of community members is evident in the appearance of their village. It is anticipated that as development work ceases the village will make further strides in the competition.