

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Balscadden** Ref: **169**  
County: **Dublin (Fingal)** Mark: **217**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **11/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>217</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Balscadden is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your excellent submission which included your planned work programme and accompanying map. Balscadden complements its surrounding countryside beautifully. We wish you every success in the implementation of your plan. Well done on your liaison with statutory bodies together with your regular newsletter and other communication strategies; your contact with the school has been noted also.

### The Built Environment:

McCormack's continues to enjoy an attractive presentation and the school looks very well indeed as does the church; the FAS building is also neatly presented. Congratulations on the floodlighting of the church and the extension of the current speed restrictions. We are interested to know more about the feasibility study for the proposed heritage centre. The development of a children's play area which you have targeted for 2010 is exciting.

### Landscaping:

Extensive green areas are an attractive feature of Balscadden and the avenue leading to the school was very much admired with its trees, grass margins, footpath and accompanying birdsong of a summer's evening. Some consideration might be given to removing the cordylines located across from the school. The beer garden looked really well on adjudication day. Congratulations on your bulb planting activities. Do keep us informed of your intentions to adopt a specific plant to represent the area.

### Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The sports grounds were neatly presented and the burial grounds looked well also. Grasses and wildflowers

at the outer edges of Balscadden offer scope for wildlife habitats and an appropriate mowing regime should be adopted. There appears to be some potential for the wildlife development of the woodland area beyond the school. Well done on the planting of bird friendly berry bushes and also on the planting of native wildflowers together with the installation of bird and bat boxes. Your proposal for the development of a wildlife garden involving the school is an excellent initiative.

#### **Litter Control:**

Apart from a few scraps of litter which were noted on adjudication day Balscadden appeared to be litter free; your litter control strategy appears to be successful. Your excellent working relationship with the litter warden is noted. We wish you well in your proposed litter awareness programme with the local youth club and school.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Your recycling point was neatly presented and maintained at the time of our visit. Well done on your participation in the composting seminar and your circulation to the community on recycling facilities. The proposed erection of bilingual recycling signs is a fine initiative.

#### **Tidiness:**

A few untidy commercial yards/sites would benefit from greater enclosure. A number of untidy development sites on the road beyond the school are problematic under this heading also. The roadside storage of some building materials and crates of bottles should be cleared away. We wish you well in your plans to have service cables ducted.

#### **Residential Areas:**

The grass roadside areas to the boundary wall of residential properties at the eastern entrance to the village is most attractive. Natural stone boundary walls together with old stone buildings are an attractive feature of Balscadden. The variety of styles and ages of dwellings from period to modern is interesting for such a small village. Many gardens were admired.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Footpaths are well surfaced and being maintained weed free and the gold engraved name stone is an attractive feature as is the old stone bridge. Balscadden is well signposted from the major thoroughfares and the grassed roadside verges on entering the village from both east and west are excellent in terms of maintenance. Well done on the clearing of land spill along the footpath at the side of the pub together with the treatment of timber barriers and the support of local land owners regarding the clearing of ditches and hedge maintenance. The installation of a local community notice board is noted for 2009 together with the uncovering and featuring of the three Holy Wells.

#### **General Impression:**

Balscadden is a beautiful village situated in scenic countryside and a lot has been achieved by quite a small community, well done.