

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballybane** Ref: **1431**
County: **Galway** Mark: **201**
Category: **D** Date(s): **28/07/2007**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2007 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 25 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 30 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 27 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 13 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 24 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 6 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 14 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 25 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 30 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 201 |

Overall Development Approach:

Ballybane was entered as part of the drive by SuperValu to work with communities to approve the environmental standards of their areas through participation in the National TidyTowns Competition. Areas were entered on the basis that they fall within the catchment area of the nearest SuperValu store and this 'baseline assessment' is intended to provide a basis on which progress could be made over the coming years through partnership with residents, businesses and local agencies. As such it should not be interpreted as a critique of the area but rather an opportunity for everybody to work together to make their hometown a better place to work, live and visit. As part of SuperValu's strategic approach to sustainable development in the area, a nominal mark has been given to reflect this. Further marks will be awarded in future years where more tangible TidyTowns structures are developed and local environmental plans prepared and implemented.

The Built Environment:

Houses are the main element of this modern Galway suburb. They bring colour and life to Ballybane. Ballybane Neighbourhood Village is a modern, well designed addition to your area. That mass of yellow looks extremely well in the HSE, Credit Union, Library but that yellow has to be kept fresh. The Church is beautiful and nicely landscaped but the landscaping needs to be maintained. The shopping centre lets the whole area of Ballybane down. It needs major renewal. Boundary walls are falling. Signage is plasticity. The graffiti is coarse. There is a feeling of neglect. A major challenge. Otherwise, lovely.

Landscaping:

Ballybane Road looks very well, wide open grassed spaces and shrubs and colour. There is a need for more of this summer colour throughout Ballybane. There are wide expanses of green in various estates like Hillside. Can these areas be better utilised and could they provide uplifting colour and a little more design. An

open space at Rocklands Avenue needs attention or it will deteriorate further.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Even though Ballybane is largely a residential area there are many open spaces, trees and hedges. Therefore there are natural habitats all over. The task is to identify birds, etc that visit and that are native. Maybe a project that could be undertaken with the assistance of the National school.

Litter Control:

Litter Control is an area that requires constant supervision and an organised campaign. Ballybane has litter. Enlist the assistance of Galway City Council and Fás. Identify the black spots and away you go.

Waste Minimisation:

Your Bring Bank at Supervalu is a step in the right direction. Well done on the Bring Bank which is neat and well maintained. In order to make further progress in this section it may help to study the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. This booklet may help you to focus on projects that would be suitable for you. It would also help differentiate between waste management and waste minimisation.

Tidiness:

The Ballybane Road presents very well. The overall appearance of the estates is also very good. The one problem for which there is a solution is the weed control throughout the estates. An achievable goal here. Graffiti has been mentioned elsewhere. And is a curse.

Residential Areas:

There are beautiful individual residences in Ballybane which exude pride. All have carefully maintained colourful gardens. As Ballybane is mainly a residential area there are many housing estates, many well established, others more recent. Glasán is a self contained village and is beautifully appointed. Castlepark and Rahylin are older but are well maintained and beautifully landscaped. There is still more potential for greater summer colour and this should be exploited. The black spot in almost all estates is the weeds on kerbs and pathways.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Ballybane Road is the approach and the houses and landscaping set the area off well. But further colour would help.

General Impression:

The adjudicator took Ballybane to run from GMIT to the Morris roundabout and all roads leading from this road. It is important that you include a map when next entering. A most enjoyable experience.