

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballitore** Ref: **840**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **198**
Category: **B** Date(s): **23/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	22
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	400	198

Overall Development Approach:

Ballitore is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your entry this year and your continued participation over the years in the face of so much disadvantage suffered by the community in the presentation of their built environment. It is encouraging to the adjudicator who has been visiting Ballitore for almost 26 years now to see that you are still participating and hopeful for change. The village has a wonderful heritage which of course has tremendous potential for interpretation in the form of a heritage trail or other initiative and we look forward to this type of development when problems have been resolved.

The Built Environment:

Hopefully the owner of the Market House will get planning permission for an appropriate development that will suit both the owner's needs and the needs of the community so that you can move ahead in the competition. The Shaker Store and Tea Rooms was beautifully white washed and looked magnificent on the day of adjudication. The entrance to the Glanbia development looked really well and the replacement of the Leylandii with hawthorn is appropriate and most supportive of wildlife. The Health Executive premises in the village centre is in need of cleaning and/or painting. Now that the Food Store has been sold hopefully the 7Up sign will be removed as it is visually obtrusive and dated and inappropriate on this important building within the village centre. Both the HP signs and the Lotto signs on the Post Office should be removed also together with beer signs on the public houses as the latter are also quite dated.

Landscaping:

Flower displays and shrubs in containers located in the centre of the village were visually pleasing and compensate to a small degree for your problems. Grass verges throughout are being maintained neatly trimmed and young trees are maturing well to provide a legacy for future generations. We look forward to the bringing to fruition of the small amenity development on the river bank. Ensure that future planting is native to

bring about an enhancement of or an expansion of wildlife habitats.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The banks of the River Greese offer potential for a wildlife trail. At some stage in the future perhaps in conjunction with the youth of the village or school children a wildlife audit or survey might be undertaken to identify habitats present on which to base the proposed wildlife trail. Leaflets, brochures, interpretative panels might also be used to increase awareness of the existing wildlife of Ballitore and its environs. The public seat on the riverbank is in need of refurbishment.

Litter Control:

Litter control was very good on the day of adjudication which was quite surprising as all the litter bins in the village centre were full to overflowing. Fortunately it was not a windy day and there seemed to be no large birds around to pull at the contents of bins. You might consider segregating litter for recycling purposes. A litter audit could also be undertaken to identify the source of the problem. If you participate in the National Spring Clean please supply details regarding your participation as these can be a source of additional marks.

Waste Minimisation:

Weeds were breaking through in many places including curbs leading up to the by-pass road. It was good to note that the centre of the village has been re-vamped and new footpaths installed. We wish you well in your plans to have resurfacing extended to incorporate the area to the back of the Market House.

Tidiness:

Weeds were breaking through in many places including curbs leading up to the by-pass road. It was good to note that the centre of the village has been re-vamped and new footpaths installed. We wish you well in your plans to have resurfacing extended to incorporate the area to the back of the Market House.

Residential Areas:

A number of roadside boundary walls including the wall to the Garda station are in need of refurbishment. Encourage householders to pay attention to their walls and areas immediately outside in addition to their gardens and side areas. Work in progress was noted on a new development which hopefully will be finished to a high standard and landscaped. Ultimately new residents should be invited to Tidy Towns evenings and encouraged to join work parties. We wish you well in future activities in this instance.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There are some attractive stretches of road and footpath on approaches and within the village. Road signs are generally well presented and the village is well signposted from major roads. We wish you every success in having your stone walls restored. Hopefully the old burial grounds will be refurbished in respect of its entrance and signage and incorporated into a heritage trail of Ballitore.

General Impression:

You have rightly identified dereliction as your biggest problem and it does tend to generate a poor overall impression of the village. Hopefully this problem will be resolved in the not too distant future and Ballitore can step boldly into the 21st century in terms of its presentation whilst at the same time maintaining a strong sense of its heritage.