

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sallybrook** Ref: **1873**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **238**
Category: **A** Date(s): **19/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	28
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	238

Overall Development Approach:

A hearty welcome to Sallybrook to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. We hope that your arrival in the competition heralds a new era for you and Sallybrook. One can sense the enthusiasm and your determination to improve your áit dúchais from your CD and from the tone of your submission. The map you included was of great assistance and ideal for the work of the adjudicator. It is evident that your committee is going about its work in an organised fashion. Well done on getting the local businesses to support your enterprise. The CD shows that you have a great cross section of support within your community. It is most important that you enlist the assistance of agencies and bodies that are significant in improving life in Sallybrook. You have made a start here by working with the engineer from Cork Co Co. In order to streamline your plans and to give credibility to your plans when you meet with officials you should devise a 3/5 year plan with projects ranging from immediate, definable and achievable to longer term more aspirational wishes. Adding costings to your plans will also help steer your work. Include such plans in next year's entry. Continue your engagement with the local schools and investigate the possibility of a school striving for Green Flag Status. Schools can be a helpful resource in carrying our wildlife surveys and, maybe in your case, traffic surveys etc. Many years of fulfilling involvement in the TidyTowns Competition.

The Built Environment:

The adjudicator found it difficult to decide exactly what to include in the built environment of Sallybrook. Certainly one includes the terraces of houses that help date the modern Sallybrook. These houses evoke memories of quieter times when the traffic was not the constant droning presence it is to-day. The houses add charm to the village main street with their personal, individual decoration and landscaping. The shops bring colour to the picture. The bungalows reinforce that community atmosphere. The Brook Inn is located at a pivotal location in the village and expresses the pride that one senses throughout your submission. But Sallybrook is more than a residential suburb. The area around Grandons is a busy commercial centre. The

railing and screening of Grandons is in keeping with the lush sylvan surroundings and is well maintained. The GAA pavilion is an important focal point for the community and is well presented. Hidden away on the side of the slope is St Joseph's Church, also well presented with spacious car parking. The ornate gates at the mill are most attractive although one set needs some renewal.

Landscaping:

Sallybrook is fortunate in that it benefits from the shelter and colour of the wooded slopes that surround the village. There is a sense of green throughout. It is obvious that many people care for the village from the way the village is presented. Well done on the village signs and the landscaped surround. The boat is another creative touch though the symbolism/relevance of a boat was lost on this adjudicator. The landscaped island at the Brook Inn is a welcome relief from the busy road and invites the sun to shine so that we can sit out. The landscaping at the entrance to the industrial area is also worthy of mention. Colour is provided by residences and businesses alike. As part of your future planning for planting you might consider catering for the needs of the various birds and little welcome creatures in the Sallybrook area. Any planning and planting should compliment the already rich surroundings of the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Sallybrook is blessed with indigenous natural advantages. There are forests all about. There are cliff edges. A stream trickles through the village and you have a waterfall. What a start. Already you are exploiting the wooded areas with your well signposted walks. The information board on the walks and on the wildlife is superb. Would the owner allow a better view of the waterfall? The adjudicator was tempted to walk down the lane to the old mill but the threat of a cross dog shattered that enthusiasm. It was a treat to find the horses/ponies feeding serenely right there by the side of the road. So what are your plans for the immediate and medium future? Sallybrook appears to have lots of possibilities. You may need the assistance and know how of a wildlife enthusiast on your committee. Ensure that you have a new wildlife project for next year.

Litter Control:

Well done on your courage to enter the anti litter competitions since 2006. A special well done on the high marks you achieved. Thankfully there was no evidence of dog fouling and no evidence of dumping. The assistance of the litter warden seems to be paying dividends. One felt that there was not an integrated litter bin plan, rightly or wrongly, as there were not a lot of bins readily visible. Nonetheless while Sallybrook is not litter free there is an effective litter control plan in operation.

Waste Minimisation:

Your submission mentions private segregation of waste. Good. When you organise your clean-ups do you segregate the waste? If so mention it. The main emphasis in this section is the minimisation/reduction of waste. During the winter you might study the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. It would stimulate waste minimisation projects that are clearly defined and achievable.

Tidiness:

There is so much that could be called tidy about Sallybrook. But the traffic is a constant presence that shows little respect for the people who live in the village. You mention planning traffic calming measures in the landscaping section. Keep the pressure on the area engineer. You have done great work in keeping verges mown and in controlling weeds. This task of cutting grass verges is a regular exercise and there were areas where the verge looked untidy because it had not been mown regularly. There are some weeds in the Church area also. Some of the signage in the village added to the unease one felt from the traffic and could be examined. Encourage businesses to use signage which is in keeping with your natural surroundings.

Residential Areas:

The terraces and houses along main street have been mentioned already and create the village feel. You did not mention the estates around the village in your submission and one wondered if you regard them as part of the villagescape. The adjudicator felt that the dwellings on the back roads and the estates around 'village core' on the map give a strong residential sense to the village and are a vital part of the village scene. Then there are places with names signs like Richmond and Ashwood which are beautiful and well worth a mention on the map.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

A wonderful feature of the village is the stone walls that sweep along from the Church. The houses on the Knocknahorgan Road have settled into their verdant surroundings and embellish this country lane. For most passers by the main road is all there is. If drivers were forced to slow down they might catch some of the

flavour of an old village with modern dwellings and scenic surroundings. Your plans for improved pavements would assist hard pressed walkers.

General Impression:

Congratulations to your committee for your initiative in entering the competition. Your submission gave a flavour of your enthusiasm. One feels that one could live a very fulfilled life in your village. You have many natural resources and services and a soothing village atmosphere. The traffic is a challenge. You are realistic in your observations in this section and aware of the challenges. Good luck