

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Ballyduff Lower** Ref: **105**  
County: **Waterford** Mark: **233**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **29/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	26
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>233</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for the completed application form and the attached sketch map of what is a very picturesque village nestled away in the lower Waterford countryside.

The committee of 4 is obviously very active if the appearance of the village is to be.

This was the adjudicator's first visit in a long number of years and it was nice to encounter such a tranquil place.

Your positive comments about the competition are well received and thank you for those.

One wonders if you have a 3 year work plan in place as there was no mention of any such document in your application.

It is important to engage with Waterford County Council and other relevant agencies as this allows you the platform to put forward any ideas that you see as beneficial to the Village.

Credit to the commercial organisation Glanbia for supporting your efforts to access resources.

### **The Built Environment:**

The village is small and compact and dominated by St Nicholas Church which was in excellent condition as was the adjoining graveyard in which are laid the remains of one the iconic legends of Waterford hurling Tom Cheasty.

The Church was obviously painted since last year as the outside look resplendent in a blush stone colour set against the bell tower.

The whole area around the church is very orderly helped by good road surfaces and organised parking spaces.

The school was in very good condition and the expansion work was about to begin which suggests that child population of Ballyduff is on the increase, a very positive plus for a village of its size.

Thankfully the village does not seem to have been earmarked for any major housing development; places such as Ballyduff tend to lose their sense of identity when engulfed by such large schemes. The old school, constructed in 1869 and re-constructed in 1950 now serving as a community hall, needs to be revitalised somewhat. Private residences were of a very high standard and credit is due to all the local residents for ensuring that this is the case. The village pump, in the local club colours I presume, commands a very prominent position in the village.

### **Landscaping:**

The standard of landscaping was very high and you have succeeded in getting the mix of trees, shrubs and annuals in balance. Green areas were very well maintained and the core village area has now been further enhanced by the excellent water feature that takes centre stage. The variety of trees to be seen in the village was quite striking from sycamore to hornbeam with some chestnut and alder also observed in the outskirts. Individual gardens were a sight to behold and it would be unfair to single out one above the other, except to say there were examples of gardens with an abundance of colour and some of nice low maintenance design.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The siting of bird boxes around the village is a worthwhile contribution to the preservation of wild life. You have many wildlife habitats in the immediate countryside and perhaps the committee might consider approaching the school principle to ascertain if the school children could become part of a specific wildlife project. Making contact with the County Wild Life officer is another option that you could pursue whereby he/she could come and advise on the appropriate school project under this category. Any such project would be a legacy for future generations to come.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was very good and it is easy enough to manage as the village is small and residents are conscious of keeping Ballyduff litter free where possible. The regular picks on approach roads have paid handsome dividends as these areas were very clean and litter free on the day. Keep up the good work and do offer encouragement to school kids to be aware of litter in the village and the need to bin it. A similar message can be given the local adult population as well.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The Bring Bank, which is in an ideal location for accessibility, is a good example of how such a facility should be maintained no plastic bags at the side as can be seen at many similar banks. Waste Minimisation is about how to avoid creating excessive waste where possible and then considering environmentally friendly ways of dealing with the waste created. The Committee should consult the Race Against Waste publication and the website to see what actions would be beneficial to Ballyduff. It may be worthwhile to invite a representative out to talk to the group in order to impart knowledge that would help you put a project together pre next year's competition.

### **Tidiness:**

Ballyduff is a small place set against the back drop of a farming hinterland. Farming activity often creates road side residue especially during the summer season when such activity intensifies. The road verges and kerbsides were pretty clean and tidy and it looks like any residue is cleaned up regularly. There were one or two premises, exclusive of the community hall, that need attention but one does not want to highlight any property in such a small place suffice to say that the Committee has knowledge of these premises. Signage is clean and visible and there was no fly posting as one did not encounter a shop!

**Residential Areas:**

The village in essence is a residential area and for the most part all homesteads were well maintained with adjoining areas and boundary walls in a very presentable state.

Very little else to be added here except keep doing the basics well as you have done to date.

The people of Ballyduff do have a strong sense of Pride Of Place judging by the way they keep their residences.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The entrance from the N25 was very inviting complemented greatly by the well designed nameplate Failte go Baile Ui Dubh.

The other entrances were also of a high standing and the village itself, as stated elsewhere benefits from a good road surface, ample parking space and availability of accessible seating where one can take time out, relax and appreciate the surroundings.

Something that was overlooked in the Built Environment section was the benefits that have accrued from the underground ducting of cables, this makes a huge difference to the streetscape.

**General Impression:**

It has been quite some time since this adjudicator last visited the lovely village of Ballyduff Lower to distinguish it from its counter part on the North Cork border.

For a committee of 4 you have succeeded in achieving quite a lot and can, as last years adjudicator stated, be well pleased with your performance.

The village has potential to do a lot better in the competition but this takes time and additional local resources. I would encourage you to expand the committee to maybe get some additional bodies to take on some of the work burden.

You are wished well in the competition in the years ahead.