

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballymacarbry** Ref: **534**
County: **Waterford** Mark: **247**
Category: **A** Date(s): **28/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	29
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	2
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	39
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	247

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your completed application form with sketch map of the village.

It has been some years since the adjudicator visited the picturesque village of Ballymacarbry in the Nire Valley.

The application did not contain any reference to a work plan; it would benefit you greatly as a committee to consider getting advice on how to put together a practical plan of work over a 3 year period.

On completion of this you can then assign duties to individuals and you will be in a stronger position when dealing with the local authority or other development agencies.

It will also allow doing more proactive promotion of the TidyTowns among the local community to get them to support your efforts.

The Built Environment:

The original mill is now home to the well known Pharmaceutical Company Pinewood Pharmaceutical and this is one of the most practical transformations that this adjudicator has observed over the years.

One notes that you have made improvements to the picnic area on the Banks of the River Nire but there is an opportunity to do more work, and it may be an appropriate time to plan additional work and then lobby your local public representatives to get Waterford County council to support your efforts.

Melody's Pub and surrounds including the car park opposite were well maintained and the same could be said of Doocey's just below it.

There are a few derelict or run down properties and as the village is small such premises tend to stand out.

The Old Creamery and St Patrick's Hall still seem to be the main problem areas and the application form doesn't give any information on what the future holds for these two links with a Ballymacarbry of the past.

The New Community Centre is still work in progress but no doubt it will prove to be a wonderful facility for the

local community when complete.

The public buildings in the village were maintained well although the school and church are a little removed from the core area.

On the negative side it's a pity that a continuation footpath can't be constructed for practical access alone, it's a bit of night mare walking on what is a narrow and busy road.

Landscaping:

Landscaping in the village is quite good, the planting arrangements at the village picnic area and also at the stone bed at car park opposite both Melody's and Doocey's is both colourful and appropriate.

There are some lovely individual gardens to be seen in the village and at the long established St Martins Place.

The Grotto is a very tranquil, well maintained and inviting to any visitor that may wish to take time out to relax and reflect.

I would encourage the Committee to consider additional planting at the River Amenity, seek advice from the horticultural section of Waterford County Council on how to go about this.

You also have so much natural wooded hinterland that a landscape programme undertaken over a 3 year period would further enhance the village as well gaining additional marks in the competition.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It was disappointing to note that there are no projects in the immediate pipeline given that you have so many natural habitats on your doorstep.

I would urge the committee to again consider seeking professional advice from the local wild life ranger and also to take steps to involve the school children in some form of wildlife project that will have long term benefits for the village.

The type of project could be from a simple survey of the fauna and flora of the area to the erection of an information notice board at the riverside amenity area.

Litter Control:

There was very little litter evident on the day and your 5 day week and week end programme of litter picking is paying dividends.

The local community is also playing its part in making sure that homesteads and premises were free of litter. Well done to all concerned.

Waste Minimisation:

As stated in last years report the village could do with a bring bank continue to lobby Waterford County Council for this facility.

No initiative was noted in your application form which does not help in gaining any additional marks so last years mark of 1 still prevails.

Do consult the race against waste website to get new ideas that could be taken on board by the community as a whole and link into what has been done by other similar sized communities around the county.

Tidiness:

A few problems were encountered during a walkabout the village.

Outside of the derelict and unoccupied buildings alluded to in a previous section there were a number of boundary walls that had residue at their base, so maybe keep an eye for any build up of such residue in the future.

One or two signs near the picnic area need to be tidied up one would be surprised what difference a basic job like this would make.

Residential Areas:

The standard achieved over the last few years in this category was maintained.

Credit is due to the residents of both the established estates Deer park and St Martins Place for the manner in which they have both maintained individual properties and communal areas.

The provision of attractive names signs in towns around the County is to be acknowledged and Waterford Council is to be commended for taking the initiative to do this.

The terrace of houses near the PO was also well maintained and the new housing development, whose name eludes me, has matured nicely helped by some excellent native tree planting.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The entrances into Ballymacarbry were well presented, signs were clean and visible and the stone walls enhance the village even more.

I would like to see one side of the street footpath at least extended through the village as it is quite dangerous to walk on the unprotected road edge.

The suggestion by last years adjudicator to plant a section opposite the Garda Station still holds true it certainly would improve this part of the village.

General Impression:

The village has the potential to achieve more form the competition but a basic 3 year work plan is needed to accelerate this potential.

The Committee is advised to seek the support of other local organisations to formulate this and take it to another level.

Once this is seen to be done you will get far more support from the local community and you will also be in better position to influence change and lobby the local authority and other agencies for support.

You are wished well in the competition in the years ahead and one will look forward to seeing Ballymacarbry rising up the TidyTowns ratings.