

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyduff** Ref: **122**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **235**
Category: **A** Date(s): **14/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	235

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your very concise application form outlining work done and planned for the future. It is interesting to note your success to date as best new entry in 2005 and also in the Keep Wexford Beautiful competition in the same year.

Indeed one could not find a better place to display such citations as in a place of worship.

This success could not have occurred without the work of the dedicated committee that has succeeded in developing a good working relationship with the Local Authority and with local business interests.

It is also good to note that you have got the school children involved as it is important to sow the seeds of community spirit at a young age.

As was stated in last years report the work gets done with the minimum of fuss and the Village has benefited immensely from such a practical report

The Built Environment:

There are some very simple but effective changes that have made the built environment in the village even more attractive to the visitor.

The Village Church and Graveyard are maintained to a very high standard both in side and outside.

Things like having the wrought iron gates painted and the boundary wall dashed can enhance such a public building no end.

This Church itself, dedicated to St Columba, is one of the best maintained places of worship that this adjudicator has encountered in a number of years.

Credit is due to the person or persons who are responsible for its upkeep.

A similar compliment applies to those responsible for the up keep of the National School which was presented in manner befitting a place of education.

The schoolchildren of Ballyduff are fortunate to have such a lovely school in such idyllic surroundings adjacent to the excellently developed Village Park with its attractive water feature. The presentation of signs As Gaeilge was noted. What can one say about Doyle's Shop and Ar mBreacha House of Storytellers? A connection with a different era in Ireland where tranquillity and good community spirit prevailed.

Landscaping:

Landscaping is a strong feature of the Village and its peripheral areas and the variety of planting arrangements were not only colourful but effectively sited as well. The osteopernums combined with annuals at the Village pump were very attractive as a colour combination. Similarly the main entrances in to the village were adorned by equally attractive combinations nicely banked with clearly visible stone name places. One was taken by the herringbone walls which seem to have a strong association with this part of Wexford. St Columba's Park is a testament to the foresight of the community who first muted the idea. The planting arrangements in the park complemented the water feature. It was also noted that you have planted saplings around this area that will in time create a protection shield. The committee should continue to seek advice on the practical aspects of village landscaping as the work done to date has proven to be very effective.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Ballyduff has a number of natural habitats that are a major contributor to the promotion and the preservation of various forms of wild life in the area. It is fine having these in place but they have to be tended to and treated in such a way that supports the attraction of various wildlife species. Doing the basic maintenance on these requires resources and the input of the local people is critical so well done to one and all. The provision of such a variety of tree species alone is an achievement in itself. There is a sense of appreciation of wildlife in what is an area of great environmental significance. The committee is to be commended for its efforts in this regard and one has to look no further than St Columba's Park to see what can be achieved when every one works together for the good of the community. Looking forward to seeing more planned activity in this category in the years ahead.

Litter Control:

Ballyduff is in reality a very small village with little through traffic, thus it is not prone to the high level of indiscriminate littering that one finds in bigger places. That said The Committee has to be vigilant at all times to make sure that all sectors of the wider community buy into the anti litter ethos. I am aware that you have had difficulty with littering in the past but you r work with both adults and children alike spreading the gospel of litter control is paying dividends.

Waste Minimisation:

Good work is being done in this relatively new category and the mark achieved last year was high by nationwide standards. This mark is retained this year by virtue of the fact that you have undertaken a few new initiatives such as advising the school as part of its application for Green Flag status. Continue to liaise with your County Environmental Section in order to keep abreast of new developments in this category.

Tidiness:

Generally a very tidy village with a few minor aberrations to be seen. The entrances into the village portray a community that is caring about its own place. The roadsides, even allowing for the farming activity one associates with such a rural location, were free of residue and other such debris. Private residences had tidy side areas and boundary walls painted.

Residential Areas:

The village has extensive rural charm that one associates with inner Ireland.

Rural dwellings are one of the main components of this charm and in Ballyduff all residences were very well presented in a simple but delightful fashion.
Each and every householder in the village can be duly proud of their homesteads.
And as stated elsewhere Doyle's Shop is a throwback to another era.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces were quite good considering that the Village is probably not a priority area for road surfacing. It may have something to do with the low level of though traffic.
Entrances to the village, helped in no small way by clear stone name signs and well presented flower banks, were very acceptable and gave an inviting feeling as one entered.
For this adjudicator the most attractive feature is the herringbone wall I note that there are plans to build more on the outskirts.
Overall a good standard maintained in this category.

General Impression:

Ballyduff is worth a visit for tranquillity alone and there were two American ladies just relaxing near the Church Car Park obviously availing of the quietness.
Your comment under this heading in the application form sums it up.
A supportive community is key to success in this competition as you have endeavoured to sort out the difficulties and then move on to the next project.
You are wished well in the future and I would hope to come back and have another chat with the owner of Doyle's Shop.