

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballygarrett** Ref: **127**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **234**
Category: **B** Date(s): **05/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	234

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the excellent application form and supplementary support material including the Wild about Ballygarrett cd.

It is not the first time that I have encountered the excellent work of artist Eileen Lambert.

This was the adjudicators first time to explore the coastal village of Ballygarrett and observe what has been achieved by the community over the last number of years.

The TidyTowns committee of 10 is an integral part of the community; your work is very much appreciated judging by the support that has been forthcoming.

It is good to note that you have fostered strong links with the local authority and other agencies, this type of partnership will be beneficial to the village in the years ahead.

More important is the support you have from local organisations and the relationship that you have with the local school.

The green flag is a major achievement for any rural school and you have helped enormously in this respect. There is quite a lot of detail in your submission, the brevity of this report does not allow one to address every part of the application.

Suffice to say that the adjudicator has taken some time to both read about and visit the work done and will reflect this as positively as possible.

The Built Environment:

The weather was not conducive to seeing any village as its best as it was one of those typical Irish summer days that we have had this year.

That said the job in hand had to be done and the wet gear was donned to do the necessary examination of the built environment.

The overall standard of presentation was very good and credit is due to all residents for making the effort to have commercial properties and homesteads looking so well.

One has to give a special mention to those responsible for the upkeep of public buildings.

The National School and its expansive grounds were extremely well maintained, one of the best examples of school grounds in the county.

The RC Church, which is of unusual design, was very well presented and the car parking facility was laid out in an orderly fashion which alleviated the problem of erratic parking.

The grounds also house the impressive memorial which honours the historical links that Ballygarrett has with Refucid in Texas.

If one comes across the name Devereaux or Power in that part of Texas one can assume that they have links to Ballygarrett.

Tom Redmond's Shopfront was admired for its simple but attractive design.

The Schooner, which looked as if had been recently painted, was also very well presented even allowing for the weather.

Ballygarret by virtue of the fact that it is quite small has no great problem with dereliction or unsightly overhead wires which is big plus.

The village has some very attractive new street lighting, new footpaths have been put in place which allows one explore the extremities by foot with a degree of comfort.

The area around the village hall needs to be surfaced as soon as possible to finish off what is an excellent job of work.

The simple improvements that you have mentioned in your submission have contributed to a good overall standard in this category and deserving of an increase in marks.

Landscaping:

The landscaping arrangements in place in the village are of very high standard with the selection of shrubs, annuals and perennials giving great colour and texture.

The lovely combination of stonewall bed, container, old bicycle complemented by new post and rail fencing and gate at the Courtown end of the village is an example of good creative planting.

This pattern is replicated in other parts of the village with similar type planting arrangements.

Very colourful hanging baskets and ceramic pots at the Church opposite the Schooner were also admired for the simple but effective layout.

The welcoming stone namplace signs are supplemented by colourful marigolds and cineraria.

Your plans for the future have been noted and the idea to develop a poly tunnel with the school is praise worthy one.

Overall a very good standard and additional mark has been awarded this year.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The most striking item under this category is the excellent notice board by Eileen Lambert and the pupils of 4th Class.

This graphically exquisite notice board depicts the fauna and flora of the area and is one of the best of its type seen by this adjudicator over the years.

The Wild about Ballygarrett project, involving the same artist, has earned you a just reward last year, its is good to note that you have a number of very innovative projects planned as a follow up.

You are to be commended for your continued involvement with the school

Litter Control:

Litter control was of an exceptionally high standard even allowing for the fact that the village area is quite small.

The ongoing and imaginative anti litter programmes including regular picks are paying off.

One is aware that an influx of visitors during the peak tourist season could be a problem but you have still managed to attain a very high standard year on year.

The mark you have attained this year is quite high and is reflective of the work that has gone into the control of litter in the village and its environs.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a category that has caused more than a little concern for some communities who found it hard to grasp the overall objective.

Ballygarrett community, through the TidyTowns, has embraced it with enthusiasm and the projects outlined in your application are extremely practical and achievable.

The collection of 50 tonnes of metal waste in support of the Chernobyl project is as good an example as one

has come across since the concept was first mooted some years back.

Tidiness:

The standard of tidiness was quite acceptable and certainly on par with previous years.

The village layout is orderly and not cluttered, improvements such as additional footpaths and new street lighting have helped.

Weed control was good considering the weather that has prevailed this summer.

The absence of fly posting and graffiti is a big plus, and as was mentioned in another section you are not encumbered with unsightly overhead wires.

Residential Areas:

The Village does not possess any significant housing development and one did not observe any planning notice that would indicate that this would change in the near future!

Your efforts to get people to make good their homesteads seems to have the desired effect as most were presented in a very acceptable manner.

As it with most places there were one or two that have not come up to the standard you have set, maybe in time this will change.

A few excellent gardens were noted during my walkabout, shrubs and flowers were particularly healthy it must be the soil and sea air.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The entrances in to the village were well up to standard, verges and hedgerows were treated as per recommended guidelines.

Name place signs, such as the one on the Kilmuckridge end of the village, add something different and gives a good first impression.

The entrance in from the cross at the splendid GAA facility and Pegs Bar is also enhanced by an excellent stone name place.

General Impression:

This was the adjudicator's first time visiting and spending time in the village of Ballygarrett.

Community spirit or pride of place, call it what you like, is very evident in the village.

The work of the TidyTowns committee is all embracing and the amount of project undertaken within a small community is quite staggering.

Your efforts have been rewarded with an increase in overall marks and we will watch for further progress in the competition in the years ahead.