

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballymurn** Ref: **27**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **252**
Category: **B** Date(s): **07/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	39
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	252

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the excellent application form supplemented by the equally impressive action plan of Scoil Chroí Ri Naofa, sketch map of the village and the plan of the joint parish community centre and facilities. It was this adjudicator's very first visit to Ballymurn and one was impressed with the blending of the new and old.

John and Katie O Connors village shop from a different time has now been replaced by CJ Murphy's Gala Shop, Service Station and local Post Office a sign of a changed era in rural Ireland.

There seems to be a huge energy for TidyTowns in Ballymurn as reflected in the involvement of all sections of the community.

Your fund raising efforts are praiseworthy as all financial support has been as a result of local activities, so well done on this.

The School is also proactive in its involvement and the action plan included in your submission bears this out. Long may this type of cooperative effort prevail.

The Built Environment:

The new graveyard on the outskirts was well sectioned and nicely presented, maybe the boundary wall is due for a painting before the summer season is out.

The impressive Church had immaculately kept grounds which reflects so well on those entrusted with its upkeep, credit to those people as this type of voluntarism has been the lifeblood of rural communities for decades.

Congratulations on the wonderful additional work undertaken in the church grounds which again just highlights the community spirit that is so strong in the parish.

The school was in splendid condition and the crafted boundary wall sets it off perfectly.
The Community Hall is in good condition and enhanced by colourful planters, new bollards and street lighting with a seat for relaxation purposes.
One is curious what the old chip van is doing there as it seems it is a permanent fixture, is it been used as a generator of some sort ?
The Credit Union is a very fine building of its kind and it has a very long association with the parish going back to its inception in 1965.
The previously mentioned Gala Stores was very well managed and presentable and very friendly staff might one add even if they were trying to come to grips with Wexford's defeat at the hands of Kilkenny I can empathise with that feeling!
A bit surprised to note that a lot of your new residents are people with holiday homes, must be the relative proximity to Curracloe.

Landscaping:

Some very novel planting touches were noted during the course of traversing around the village.
The little tubs filled with colourful annuals, supplemented by seat at the site of the former O'Connor's shop, were something that was effective without being elaborate.
The planting at St Joseph's Terrace combined selected ground cover shrubs with perennials such as potentilla and bush roses and was very easy on the eye.
The planting at the entrance to Woodlands suggests minimum maintenance, this will in time mature with the estate it self.
One notices a strong emphasis in maintaining existing planting schemes which can be an arduous task especially when there is a summer like the present one.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

This is a section that has been embraced by the community itself and the local school in a very practical manner.
Giving local school children the opportunity to see first hand the variety of wildlife on their doorstep is something not readily available to their urban counterparts.
It would be fitting if a dedicated project in the form of a wildlife survey, the results of which could be then transposed on to wildlife information board, be put in place.
The board could be sited in the centre of the village or maybe at the Old Graveyard.
There are a few places in the county that have taken this approach in conjunction with local wildlife enthusiasts and in one case a local artist whose interpretation was just magnificent.

Litter Control:

The statement in your submission on this one appeals to me greatly.
"The litter in Ballymurn is solved by combining exercise with litter control" a very practical and effective way of doing things.
It must be paying off as there virtually no litter evident on the day of adjudication which was after a week end.
Well done to all the local community and to the TT committee for spreading the gospel of good litter control.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling centre is in deed a fine example of how one should be laid out but some people did not observe the proper code of practice as there were a few plastic bags strewn underneath the receptacles.
If these were not there the centre would have qualified for the bring bank award it is not too late yet as the adjudicator maybe passing there during the week ahead.
The committee should consult with the Race Against Waste website to get update information on possible projects that it could engage in under this category.
There has been an improvement since last year but the community has far more potential than what has been done to date.
An extra mark has been awarded but there is the possibility of more if proper proactive action is undertaken in the years ahead.

Tidiness:

The village has an advantage in that it's quite small and issues of untidiness can be identified with relative ease.
There are no major problems with untidy buildings or messy back areas and the new housing developments

have been tidied up in quick time.

One notes your concerns about the spray from cars going through the village and I suppose this is something that you have very little control over.

The lack of kerbing in parts of the village has led to uneven road verges in places but in time this will be put right by Wexford County Council by virtue of the fact that it has an obligatory duty to ensure safety in the village for pedestrians, cyclists and motorised travel alike.

Residential Areas:

A very good standard was maintained in this category and credit is due to the residents of the long established St Joseph's Terrace and to the comparative newcomers Tulach Geal, isn't it so good to see an estate named as gaeilge, Woodlands, Oak Park and the very new Anvil Court.

The row of established houses opposite the Church also deserve mention as do the many individual homesteads that looked so resplendent on quite a good day for an Irish summer.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Entrances in to the village were in good order and the basic standard was maintained in an effective manner. The entrance in from Enniscorthy /Ballinkeele Road had the verges trimmed and the hedgerow maintained in accordance with recommended guidelines for wildlife preservation,

The speed limit signs were clean and visible but there was a Caution sign further in nearer the village that was tatty and rusty and needs to be replaced.

The Kilmallock, I thought there was only one Kilmallock!, from the old graveyard in was also presented well as was the entrance from the New Graveyard end of the village.

The ducting of wires underground would be a huge bonus if it happens.

Road surfaces in general were quite poor and these will not be resurfaced until all the housing development and possibly the undergrounding of wires is complete.

General Impression:

As stated earlier this was the adjudicator's first time being in the village of Ballymurn and I must say that the experience was a pleasant one and hopefully I will be able to come back for a more leisurely visit sooner rather than later.

Being in close proximity with the coast creates a rather heavy traffic flow for a place of its size.

The proactive committee has succeeded in harnessing both the good will and the resources of the local community to very good effect.

The village may have to wait a year or so because ongoing work to reach its real potential.

It is hoped that you will be successful in supplementing your committee with new recruits from the new arrivals in to the village.

There is a great spirit in the joint parish of Crossabeg/Ballymurn and the donation of 7 hectares for the wonderful new community facility is indeed a magnificent gesture by any standards.

What you are doing for the parish now will be appreciated by the future generation to come.

Do keep the school children involved in ongoing and proposed new projects.

Keep up the good work and the best of luck for the future.