

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballydesmond** Ref: **91**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **194**
Category: **A** Date(s): **05/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	22
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	194

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed entry form. I notice you have 5 committee members which is a small amount of people for the task. You hold monthly meetings and it is disappointing to find that the general involvement of the community is nil. It is positive that you are supported by IRD Duhallow Clár and Cork County Council. It is very important that your committee could communicate with the local community and we find that a lot of tidy towns committees include their message in parish newsletters. It is good to see that you are engaging with the local schools and the children are involved in the spring clean up. Could I respectfully suggest that you consider assisting the school to try and attain the green flag status. For a start you could get Paddy Madden's book "The School Garden" what to do and when to do it. I am glad to find that you find the competition to be of interest and it is an incentive to improve the town.

The Built Environment:

I note you plan to remove the 50 metres of dangerous wall between the post office and Dan Casey's house. I found that this wall is in a dangerous condition and it is, therefore, advisable to attend to this matter as a matter of urgency. There are a few derelict sites in the village, and there is not a lot you can do about these situations. There is one across the road from the post office, the square shaped yellow building for sale by Ireland Properties and the one 50 metres from the credit union. You could simply let it be known to the owners of these sites that it is your intention to make the town a better and safer place to live in. On a more positive note there are some thriving business houses that are very well presented, notably Centra, Denny Matty's bar, Shell filling station and most prominent was John D's Sliabh Luacra bar and restaurant, the post office and O'Keeffes Shamrock House. The GAA pavilion at Nora Herlihy Park is most impressive and well done to all those local GAA people. Tír Na Nóg crèche is a splendid building. Bally Desmond National School was crisp and clean. The Roman Catholic Church is a majestic stone building maintained in impeccable condition –

congratulations for this great effort.

Landscaping:

The graveyard is well maintained- well done. There is a fine arrangement of mature trees throughout the village and some nice shrubberies at the entrance to An Bruach new developments. I like the periodical displays of shrubs in tubs and I felt that these could have been further enhanced with some summer flowers. There is a nice shrubbery at the entrance to the GAA grounds. The children's play ground is well equipped and a great local amenity.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

I note your plans with the co-operation of HSE to install bird tables and plant flowers in the HSE site. This will be welcome when put in place.

Litter Control:

You did not indicate your comments on this important matter but I did see your involvement with the school children. There was evidence of littering on the streets, however, this was not a major problem.

Waste Minimisation:

I inspected the depot at the school and it is fairly well maintained. It is good to encourage the schools on the green flag as you are doing. You could endeavour to organise the community to start composting in their homes.

Tidiness:

As earlier mentioned, the derelict sites are untidy locations and there was quite a lot of weeds on the paths and this type of vegetation can be kept under control by spraying with Roundup which, if used according to the guidelines, is a safe product for users and the environment generally.

Residential Areas:

There are some very well kept private houses around the town with fine lawns, hedges, shrubs and flowers. The new housing development An Bruach is maturing nicely.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main road through the village has quite a lot of uneven patches of surface and is in need of attention. I liked the signposts with suitable landscaping.

General Impression:

I think you need to try and get more local support, perhaps you could enlist the assistance of other local organisations. Your committee of five is a small number for this task, but you are making a good effort – well done.