

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sallybrook** Ref: **1873**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **254**
Category: **A** Date(s): **24/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	42
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	254

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the filled up entry form, excellent map and the three / five year plan. I read over your plan and you have ambitious targets set to maintain and enhance your village. I note you have 12 committee members and you meet on a monthly basis formally, and other meetings are also held. You are getting support from a number of agencies and associations. It is worth while for you to have regular communication with the local primary and secondary schools. I note that last year was the first time you entered into the competition and you appear to have found it beneficial as it brought the community together. All of this means you have a good overall development approach.

The Built Environment:

St Joseph's church nestles peacefully on the side of the hill. I saw that the railings and gates have been freshly painted and the car park very well marked out. The church itself will need to be painted and I observed that this is part of the 3/5 year plan. The GAA pavilion is a credit to the caretaker and the committee as this spacious building was spotlessly clean and well presented – the caretaker was busy sweeping the yard early on a summer's morning. The shops were well presented and I admired the Brook Inn.

Landscaping:

Supreme landscaping was admired at Kearney's Cross especially the flowers in a boat. Other landscaping is most impressive with the wonderful churns on the yellow cart. I have seen in other locations where the wheels of the carts are set in concrete to a depth of say 9-12 inches and this makes them secure and almost free of vandalism. The grass was well trimmed here. I also admired the old bicycle. The waterfall is great and the entrance to the old mill caught my eye, but this is a very busy place with traffic, and consequently could be quite dangerous. Landscaping was very good outside the Peugeot garage and industrial estate.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

I admired the beautiful heritage notice board of the loop (red) 4km that contained great illustrative photographs of the local flora. Good luck with the entry for the nature biodiversity award and I noted the impressive list of wildlife logged in it to date. The new trees at Kearney's cross are a good long-term investment for aesthetics and of course the wildlife. I understand that a mature oak tree can accommodate up to 450 different types of insects. I read over the Sallybrook Walk brochure and it is most interesting to see the old and new Sallybrook and to look over the wonderful scenery and a stroll there brings wildlife up close in all those wonderful stone walls, in the mature trees and along the river bank.

Litter Control:

There is great attention the paid to litter control. I met Liz O'Leary who was busy doing a litter pickup with her tidy towns HiVis vest – great commitment. You are doing very well in the Cork Co Council anti-litter challenge competitions, and there was not much litter to be seen on the day of adjudication.

Waste Minimisation:

You could apply to the County Council for your own recycling depot / facility. I read your letter to Mr Pat McKelvey, Glanmire Community College and I see that Mr McKelvey is putting in a tremendous effort in, as you state, to keep the green flag flying. The green flag programmes are great for children, their parents and teachers to get a better awareness of best practice in relation to the preservation of the local environment which is mostly about the waste threat. I note you are promoting composting in the community and you have plans in place with a local landowner to set aside screened area for composting.

Tidiness:

The area was cleaned up to the best of your ability and had a tidy appearance. It was disappointing to see graffiti on the lovely stone wall outside the church. The grass verges were well trimmed and this gave freshness to the village.

Residential Areas:

There is an array of wonderful private houses in Sallybrook with impressive shows of lawns, trees, shrubs and flowers which give added colour to your efforts with landscaping plus the excellent natural landscape. The houses in the village at the GAA pitch are lovely. On a trip out to some of the housing estates I found impressive new houses with great landscaping.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roads through the village are in good condition. The road signs are clean and distinct. The roadside fencing is very good especially made up of some good traditional stone walls. Great care must be taken when repairing the traditional stone walls, and could I, with respect, suggest that you could get information on this subject from the conservation officer at Cork County Council. The original style must be maintained in new work (no fancy pointing) and the correct, mostly lime based, mortar is most important with the use of little or no cement.

General Impression:

You have put in an excellent submission with the entry form and this is appreciated. But the work on the ground is there for all to see. Well done to all concerned.