

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Ballincollig** Ref: **661**  
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **274**  
Category: **G** Date(s): **15/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	46
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>274</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for the typed up entry form and the substantial amount of support material and thanks also for the map of the area. I note you have 9 people in the core committee and up to 30 volunteers who give weekly assistance in different projects. Great enthusiasm is evident when people give up some of their spare time to attend meetings all the year round and especially in the winter months, and also to assist with litter picking. You are getting great support from Cork County Council, the Business Association, Lions club, sports organisations and the resident's associations. The funding I observe is coming from the local business community and church gate collections. You are getting your message across to the people, mainly through the parish newsletters, but also through a lot of other means. It is very positive that you have this relationship with the 7 local schools and have supported their bids to attain the green flag status. Your experiences of the competition makes very interesting reading. All of this means you have an excellent approach to the competition.

### **The Built Environment:**

The town is very well planned and laid out with the new businesses blending in well with the traditional town structure. This is a very busy town but the main street appears to be wide enough to accommodate the huge amount of traffic. It is somewhat unfair to include some shops and leave out others and I wish to only give a brief flavour of the business environment. I admired Pat Pratt, Ballincollig Shopping centre, the Library the spacious community Hall, St John's Boys School. The catholic church is striking structure with impressive cut stone. The marketing information centre is a spectacular stone building. I also admired the two Supervalu stores, Mary O'Connells Bar, Donie Dan's, Mc Eoins Jewellers, Boyle Sports and O'Mahoney Walsh Property Partners. Bank of Ireland and Harringtons pharmacy were also impressive.

**Landscaping:**

The town and surrounding areas were most impressive with neat splashes of landscaping in a lot of areas. The trees along the main street soften the visual impact of some buildings. And the trees along the sides of the approach roads especially out from the Oriel House Hotel are wonderful with some very eye-catching shows of different shrubs. The West End Roundabout was particularly attractive. Good landscaping was noted outside Topaz. The landscaping in Colaiste Choilm was most impressive. I admired the photographs in your support material of the station road, the spring planting, the Poulavone Roundabout, and the lattice tree planting on existing street scape. There are great photographs, but it was special to actually visit those sites. There was some excellent landscaping near West Point.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

I admired the amenity for the childrens playground and it was great to see so many children enjoying themselves in the outdoor activities – well done. The nearby regional park is an outstanding amenity. The signposts giving details of the Royal Gunpowder Mills is educational and attractive. The Dams on the two rivers are interesting with neat cut stone bridges. The long beach walk is a tremendous amenity and the people of Ballincollig are lucky to have this amenity for exercise and recreation. All of this area is a haven for wildlife. The huge field that is set out in soccer pitches caters very well for the young people of the area. I read over the Fauna and Flora study and habitat assessment of Ballinhassig Regional Park and the findings are most impressive. If I could just state briefly – the park provides space for nature in an urban context – I have read these words from your presentation and this accurately describes the area.

**Litter Control:**

There are numerous litter bins all around the town which are well serviced. You have a very good approach to litter control. Isolated spots of litter were found up near the catholic church and near the Ceard Scoil. I note that the Co. Council have cut back on their support for you and indeed for other towns.

**Waste Minimisation:**

I read your additional information on Ballincollig waste minimisation and recycling information. This is an extensive document that covers all the facets of waste control. You therefore have a very good understanding of this topic and you are sending out the right messages to the community. I inspected the bring banks and all were very tidy and well serviced. It is great to see the green flag flying at some schools and this is a most positive step to the education of children to take good care of their local environment.

**Tidiness:**

The town was presented in an orderly and tidy fashion. There as a lot of evidence of chewing gum residue near the post office. The national problem of cigarette butts was also in Ballincollig outside some of the bars. There is a lot of disruption due to the works on sanitary services but this is out of your control, and the work is being done in a responsible manner. Control of weeds is quiet good. Unfortunately there were some daubs of graffiti in some places.

**Residential Areas:**

I visited a number of housing estates and the degree of planning and general layout is of a high standard. There is great attention to landscaping and tidiness. West Court, Westgrove, Citi-West-Mews, Park Na More Rise, Evancourt, The Avenue, Poulavane Manor, Manor Hill and the Daffodils are some examples of excellent housing estates. These are all most impressive and give a flavour of the high standard of the residential areas. I admired some wonderful private houses all around the town and in the surrounding area with great showings of hedges, lawns, trees shrubs and flowers.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

All the roads around the town are in good condition except for where work is being carried out. All the sign posts are clean, clear and distinct. There is good fencing to the roads with some great traditional stone walls in many locations. The back areas of the town are very well developed and lead on nicely to the main street. In these areas some good car parking facilities are provided.

**General Impression:**

It was a pleasure to visit Ballincollig for the first time. This is a vibrant town with wonderful shops and amenities. You have put huge effort into the production of the entry form – well done. When the public works are complete you will be poised to further increase your marks.

