

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballycotton** Ref: **96**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **239**
Category: **B** Date(s): **18/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	239

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you very much for the filled up entry form and map of the town. I note you have 15 members in your committee. It is important to keep in touch with the local people. Engagement with the local school is very important. The Ballycotton 10 appears to be a great social event. You could consider having discussions with Cork County Council as you are entitled to their support.

The Built Environment:

Most of the public buildings are in good condition. Bay View hotel, The Scooner, The Blackbird, the Post Office, and Sean McGrath are examples of good business houses. But others are just as good. The two churches are visually striking and looked very well. I understand that the Church of Ireland is no longer in use as a Church, I noticed some remedial work is done on it and I trust there is a preservation order on it. The Grotto is a beautiful feature with some wonderful shrubs and flowers, stone paving and good public seating stand out there. The school looked very attractive and was clean and tidy.

Landscaping:

Some wonderful wild flowers, especially the red valerian make good aspects. The view from the pier out to the lighthouse from the platform in front of the quay wall is spectacular. All the boats are very picturesque with the backdrop of the town. The old water pumps around the town are a great reminder of bygone days. There was great landscaping at the Grotto and around the Catholic Church. Elsewhere neat splashes of landscaping adorn the town. There is a natural landscape to the town with all those mature trees and stone walls.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

I admired the notice-board, Angling in Ireland, down at the quay that gives details of all those wonderful fish in

the local sea. The walkway down to the sea is an unsightly lane, but I noticed the new railing – well done. You could enlist the services of some local people to assist you with wildlife matters.

Litter Control:

There is a note board down at the quay that states Please do not Litter, but there were no litter bins in that area, and there were small heaps of cigarette ends dumped under the notice board. The rest of the town was almost free of litter, and there were plenty of litter bins around the town. I notice you are involved in the Cork Litter Awareness.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling centre is very well presented in its position up in the car park. The nine bins were well serviced, but unfortunately somebody dumped a small black plastic bag of rubbish there. Now that recycling areas are introduced all around the country I feel the time has come for the introduction of CC cameras.

Tidiness:

The town was presented in a fairly orderly condition and for the most part was tidy. There are a number of derelict houses in the town, and I realise there is little you can do about this. However, you could have a discussion with the County Council executives on the matter and with the permission of the owners temporary work could be done to camouflage the effect, and this is very well done at the old Garda station. The harbour area was clean and tidy except for the cigarette ends.

Residential Areas:

There is a selection of private houses around the town that are maintained, for the most part, in excellent condition with wonderful displays of shrubs, flowers, trees and lawns. I loved the wonderful yellow thatched house. This is a typical sea side town and the traditional town houses are very well maintained and brightly painted. There are a few houses on the side road up towards the Catholic Church that were adorned with wonderful flowers. The housing estates are well maintained, but some did not have a name on them.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Some of the roads around the town are in poor condition; especially the roads going up towards the Catholic Church and here again you could speak to the County Council engineer and point out that some of these roads are dangerous. I did not see any sign for the town, something like "Welcome to Ballycotton". I did see a sign outside the Protestant Church that read Ballycotton 1 km, but I noticed that I was actually in the town at that point. The back areas of the town are well developed.

General Impression:

I note you have been presented with a cart, it is being restored at the present time, and will be a lasting testament to Tommy Sliney when it is place. I admired the barometer placed in that wonderful setting with some neat flowers at the base. This is quite historical and well done to all concerned for preserving it. You can be justly proud of Ballycotton. Well done.