

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Baltimore** Ref: **1074**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **250**
Category: **B** Date(s): **21/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	250

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to Baltimore TidyTowns Group for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2009. Thank you for your comprehensive submission and for the supporting literature which shows that you are an enthusiastic group of people, committed to the improvement of the appearance of Baltimore and to the enhancement of the quality of life in Baltimore. Thank you for the map and especially for highlighting what must be seen thus channelling the adjudicator in the appropriate directions. The photographs were also most helpful in giving a sense of the town before arrival. When compiling the material for your submission be more targeted and discerning in the material you enclose. Much of the content this year is more useful as a history of your work than as an aid to the adjudicator. When so much material is enclosed there is a danger that the relevant material may be overlooked in wading through that which is of marginal relevance to the present adjudication. There is not necessarily a direct link between size of submission and mark awarded. Your submission shows that you interact with the community and that you engage with agencies that can assist you shape the appearance of the town. You are aware of the challenges that face 'a working port'. Continue your good work. Imagine what the photos would look like were it not for your influence. The 'After' file would be missing.

The Built Environment:

Baltimore is a worthwhile experience if only to drive through and experience the coastal town views and terraces, with the odd heritage building cropping up. The castle, marooned on top of the rock like a Moorish fortified castle, proclaims the constant fear of a coastal invasion from previous times. The steps up to it are a delight of non-threatening times. The stone buildings to it's front have a design in keeping with the surroundings. The next landmark building is the Church of Ireland, standing proudly in the town centre, it's rival having been deported to the far away countryside of Tullagh, whose more modern successor is so far removed it does not earn a mention on the map. Well done on your work at Tullagh. There is a fine cut stone

building at the entrance to possibly the Moorings that deserves your attention. One must not forget the old railway station preserved so well by the sailing school people. The information board is well worth the visit. A special congratulations for retaining the Baltimore sign which preserves the railway atmosphere. Dereliction seems an inevitable companion of coastal town appearance. Baltimore also suffers. Good luck with your efforts. The green shed is an example of how the old buildings can be made attractive. If the doors on a shed down at the pier got a coat of paint it would give a lift to its surroundings. Rolf's Country House was well worth the hazardous detour. The plaza effect at the village centre is a joy and transports this coastal village onto any village on mainland Europe as local and visitor sip, read, look out and chat at their ease. The pump, the sundial and the pathway down to the Sailing Club add to the charm of the village centre. One must not omit mention of the Community Centre. Well done on the fine renovations.

Landscaping:

The adjudicator wants to give the credit to the TidyTowns Committee for the colourful landscaping throughout. The long list of works engaged in illustrates your year round commitment. Surely your presence and your vigilance ensured that estates would be landscaped in accordance with their surroundings. Then there are the many seats that invite one to come, sit and take in God's creation. Keep the seats painted. You have been assisted in your work by the richness of the natural landscaping. Looking up the incline from Coffin Beach the natural colour and groundcover is most pleasing and softens the higgledy piggledy nature of the buildings. Hedges are cared for and trimmed and abound. The playground is not just a fine facility but is beautifully landscaped also. The pier area of ports can have an unkempt appearance but your landscaping helps deflect the eye. The wild rose bed in Dillon's Ledge reflects the summer sunshine, your little sign proclaiming that self help is effective.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Baltimore is a natural wildlife haven. Provision of access to the riches of the sea seems to be well in hand. One notes that your 3 Year Plan, while specific on plans for other sections of the TidyTowns programme, is lacking in specific plans for wildlife. Have you been engaged in an ecology report for Baltimore or has an ecological survey been carried out. One is pleased to read that your landscaping projects have been carried out with the welfare of the birds and bees in mind.

Litter Control:

Your litter control measures are being effective. It was a challenge to find a stray, displaced piece. One does not underestimate the challenge in dealing with passing pedestrian traffic from ferries and the waste they accumulate. One estate is a cause for some concern.

Waste Minimisation:

Well done on the Bottle Bank and on the Clothes Bank at the Community Centre. In your dealings with the school has the question of Green Flag Status been raised? The pupils would learn much about recycling, reusing, reducing and composting. They would be involved in waste minimisation projects and would bring their new found skills, their new found knowledge and their new found enthusiasm home to the generations at home.

Tidiness:

Lots of hard work evident. Who controls the grass on steep inclines? Ensure that there is weed control along the base of the fine walls. The miles of fine stone wall throughout not only bring definition to their surroundings but create a neat appearance which compliments the wildness of the natural surroundings. Estate signage, where it exists creates a sense of belonging, and is missed where it is overlooked. Road surface in places requires a phone call to the relevant authority. Graffiti is a curse. While you seem to have a handle on the problem, there is some.

Residential Areas:

On the way down from Beacon we sense the fine houses, nicely secluded by the fuchsia or whatever hedging will withstand the harsh salty surroundings. The houses on the Skibbereen Road add to the expectation whetted at Harrington's Corner. The terraces add to the sense of a fishing village. The older stone one's are now in competition with the modern yellow of the recent past. The yellow beehive designs will have to endure fierce Atlantic gales before they mellow sufficiently to compete with the stone fronts at Carbery Terrace and in other places. The slated front and stone finish on the terrace beside the castle provides another welcome change. The housing on Dillon's Ledge is most attractive, the landscaping on the way in a joyous mix of planted colour and wild colour. The same is true of no. 19 on your map, the Moorings, though one of these estates needs better landscaping management and could slide to shabby in time. The lantern style lamps at Dún na Séad estate are most attractive, the landscaping superb.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The activity at Harrington's Cross sets the tone for the visit to Baltimore. A colourful corner offering the promise of seafood. Just the start one would hope for. Then the estates unfold, residential and holiday, reflecting the nature of a fishing village and the building craze of the Celtic Tiger. On the far side Beacon Road presents a rural landscape that winds its way down to the village embracing the views of the sea, the islands or promontories, the harbour activity with the residential areas more peripheral. Lovely. The way down to the Baltimore Harbour Hotel would benefit from a power wash or a coat of paint.

General Impression:

The quality and content of your submission suggests that this is a TidyTowns Committee that has an informed approach to the presentation of Baltimore. Seeing your members set about their task in the early morning fills one with admiration. The town reflects your enthusiasm and hard work. The dereliction reflects the changing fortunes of the fishing village and must be endured and faced up to. One wishes you well in the challenges that face you.