

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Ballyouskill** Ref: **388**  
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **265**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **02/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	42
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>265</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The adjudicator would like to welcome Ballyouskill to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. One of the great aspects of Tidy Towns adjudication is the possibility of discovery. Ballyouskill was an enjoyable discovery for this adjudicator, never having visited the area before. This has the feeling of a friendly community working together to make their place a better place. Thank you for the completed entry form and supporting documents. The map was especially helpful on the day. The community is a wide spread one and just two people to handle Tidy Towns is very small. It is good to see that you have the support of the County Council and FAS, who do so much good work for Tidy Towns around Ireland. Thank you also for the really helpful photographs.

### **The Built Environment:**

Hopefully, your plans are gathering pace for the restoration on the Priest's Well and we look forward to seeing the results of this next summer, when we return. The newly painted Post Box looked very tidy, as did the Community Hall which appeared to have been painted in the not too distant past. The Catholic Church is well set off by the excellently painted road boundary wall in blue and white. The flower boxes here and the trees in the grounds all make up an excellent presentation. At Rings / The Wheel Inn, a flower barrel needed to be treated. The roadside Shrine was much admired and the natural presentation with the Wild Roses is so appropriate. Can the ESB box here be screened from view? Perhaps, you need to talk to them on this. The village Pump, an important aspect of the history of Ballyouskill, was neatly presented.

### **Landscaping:**

The daffodils at the Abbey and elsewhere, must have looked marvelous earlier in the year. Hopefully, the birds appreciated the new fruit trees! Roadside landscaping in Ballyouskill stands out as a strong characteristic of this village and provides so much colour.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The Wildflower area and the re-sowing of the wildflower bed are excellent projects that come under this adjudication category. The Wildlife area, at the site of the old Forge, is an interesting one and wildlife here was evident during the visit. The information panel gives great information on the history of the Forge, but little about the wildlife in Ballyousskill.

**Litter Control:**

Your links with the County Council in terms of litter control are most useful. On the day of the visit, litter control in Ballyousskill was very good – well done to the total community. The Bring Centre was really excellently presented and the raised plinth was admired here.

**Waste Minimisation:**

No indication or projects were given under this category. This is about the reduction of waste in the Ballyousskill area. For example, is there any farm waste that could go into recycling? What about farm plastic?

**Tidiness:**

The new and additional signage is welcomed. Flower or shrub barrels will need to be painted or otherwise, treated from time to time. At the old Abbey, the yard here looked a little untidy, but is located back from the road here.

**Residential Areas:**

The houses in Ballyousskill are presented with pride and good mature landscaping was noted in many areas. Many very good displays of Roses were admired. A few road boundary walls at private houses were noted, that were not in keeping with such a rural area. When boundaries are being replaced, it is strongly recommended that natural looking earthen or stone replacements be constructed. At the Post Box, a well landscaped garden caught the eye, but this is just one of a number of gardens that appealed to this adjudicator.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Approach roads have been heavily landscaped, but the overall appearance is a really natural one and this is indeed, the correct approach to adopt. Planting at the village signs was admired.

**General Impression:**

It was a great pleasure to visit Ballyousskill for the first time. Good luck with your good work for next year, when we look forward to returning to your beautiful area.