

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyduff Lower** Ref: **105**
County: **Waterford** Mark: **236**
Category: **A** Date(s): **04/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	26
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	236

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2009 National Tidy Towns Competition. Well done on all your hard work. Thank you for your submission, which included the completed application form and a map of the village. Your committee of four is to be congratulated on your fundraising efforts. It is also noted that you have received some assistance from Centra and Glanbia. We would encourage the Ballyduff committee to engage the help of other agencies, such as Waterford County Council, particularly in relation to the production of a three to five year village enhancement plan. It is to be hoped that by widening the net in relation to applications for development assistance, that this approach will pay dividends in time.

The Built Environment:

Ballyduff is an interesting cross roads village with a curving main street that descends to the attractive lattice bridge on the river Blackwater. R. Tobin's Pub is an attractive vista-closing building with a pleasant colour scheme (painting was in progress on the day of adjudication). The River Action Restaurant is a building of great character with a pleasant colour scheme, as is the adjoining residence. Ballyduff has a number of fine village street premises. Some of these are in need of regeneration. They all merit long term conservation and preservation as they contain many of the finer elements of vernacular Irish village architecture. The Credit Union and adjoining houses opposite the Church have a nice scale and are very much in keeping with village architecture. Stone walls are a feature of the village and it is to be hoped that this tradition will be developed and enhanced as already carried out at the magnificent development of the stone house opposite the Munitir na Tire (St. Michael's) Hall. The wicket gate, farm gate and footpath here set an example and looked magnificent. St. Michael's Hall itself bustled with activity on the day of adjudication and the grounds are well maintained. Well done on this achievement!

Landscaping:

The standard of landscaping is one of the high points of the village and a good mix of trees, shrubs and annuals has been achieved. Your recent efforts have been noted by last year's adjudicator and it is to be hoped that this tradition will continue. The burial ground and the area around is certainly a highlight. At the entrance, the grotto was a nice feature, but on the day of adjudication the plant boxes needed some attention and the grotto itself needed weeding and freshening up, the railing to the front could be repainted.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Last year's adjudicator commented on the many wildlife habitats in the immediate countryside and we note that you have already commenced work under this heading with the introduction of bird boxes. It is noted that the committee has already made contact with the school and perhaps this contact could be extended to include a wildlife survey. The results could then be illustrated on bilingual, wildlife boards providing a further interesting information point in the village. There are numerous attractive areas, particularly close by the river enhancing this existing information point as an area of interest.

Litter Control:

On the day of adjudication, the village was reasonably clean. Some litter was noted by St. Michael's Hall at the junction of the N25 and the Araglin Road. The litter bin here was also full to capacity and was overflowing. Kerbside areas were generally well maintained, but some weed control was required at the margins of the approach road to the bridge. You should consider establishing a regular litter control with members of the committee responsible for particular areas. This action would help to monitor any problem areas and ensure that the village remains generally clean.

Waste Minimisation:

The bottling and clothing bank at the GAA grounds is well located and generally well maintained. Last year's adjudicator suggested a number of further actions the committee could engage in under this heading. The Race Against Waste website contains a number of good ideas on this. It is to be hoped that this programme will be developed in the coming years and that more initiatives from this website will be adopted in the future.

Tidiness:

The overall appearance of the village was one of tidiness on the day of adjudication. A number of disused buildings need to be redeveloped, which hopefully will be reconstructed in due course. The village has a nice stock of traditional, vernacular buildings and it is to be hoped that any redevelopments will retain the character and scale of the old buildings, particularly in relation to details such as timber sash windows, doorways, shop fronts, ornate dormer windows, red brick chimneys and slate roofs.

Residential Areas:

Private residences were again well maintained throughout the village. A planning notice was noted for the development of ten houses at Blackwater Close. It is to be hoped that this scheme, in such a prominent location, will be well landscaped when developed. Marian Terrace is excellently well developed and the adjoining open space looked well with the grass neatly trimmed. The railing could do with repainting, but the cobble lock footpath to the front looked well. Both Marian Terrace, and the well presented Cois Abhann scheme opposite, create an attractive approach to the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The village has a variety of approach roads and in general these look well. At the Fermoy entrance, the attractive announcement sign for the village was partially obscured by a poorly hand-printed advertising sign for Araglin Dog Show. This could be moved to a more appropriate location. The vistas of the Blackwater from this location are magnificent.

General Impression:

Ballyduff village with its interesting history, situated on the river Blackwater, has a unique charm and the presentation of its core buildings gives it a unique character. It is hoped that any new developments will enhance this atmosphere. Well done in this year's competition!