

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballymacarbry** Ref: **534**
County: **Waterford** Mark: **249**
Category: **A** Date(s): **08/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	29
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	2
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	39
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	249

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2009 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included a clear map and the completed application form. The numbering of the projects on your map was of great assistance to the adjudicator on the occasion of the inspection. It is good to see that you are liaising with Waterford County Council in relation to a number of the category headings. We would encourage the committee to engage the help of other agencies, particularly in relation to the production of a three year village enhancement plan. It is hoped that by widening the net in relation to applications for development assistance, this approach will pay dividends in time.

The Built Environment:

Ballymacarbry is an attractive linear village in a woodland setting dispersed along the River Mahon. Development occurred substantially on one side of the river, save for the nicely regenerated old mill, now Pinewood Pharmaceuticals. This complex had a nicely laid out car park containing some shrubberies and outdoor tables and seating. The streetscape at Melody's contains a nice mixture of commercial development containing two pubs, Melody's and Doocey's, a shop and newsagent and Lily's Hairdressing Salon. This complex contains the best characteristics of rural Irish architecture particularly in relation to character, materials and scale. The nicely painted buildings with good quality bilingual signage adorned with some attractive flower arrangements are inviting and welcoming to the visitor and form a very attractive vista when viewed from the scenic drive. The development of the Ballymacarbry Community Hall will be a tremendous centrepiece and focal point for the village when completed, particularly in light of the fact that both the school and church are somewhat removed from the village centre. The pleasant housing terrace between the Post Office and Garda Station looked well, but one garden was in need of weed control. St. Patrick's Hall, the old branch Creamery and the house opposite would hugely benefit from a freshening up. The house and beautifully presented garden opposite the picnic area entrance looked splendid and was a highlight.

Landscaping:

There are a number of landscaped areas throughout the village. Opposite Melody's, the car park and picnic area is particularly attractive. The flower and shrubbery beds surrounded by a low stone wall have a nice stock of colourful plants, but were in need of some weed control. The timber seating also needs to be freshened up. The linear sloping area opposite the new Community Centre looked splendid with its attractive ground cover and the green beech hedge to the rear was well maintained and gives a nice enclosure and connectivity to the village at this point. The picnic area is a wonderful amenity and grass cutting had just been carried out here on the day of adjudication. The lifebelt and seating was in need of attention, but this area, if fully rejuvenated, has the potential to become the village focal point.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We note from your application that your committee is linked to the school. Last year's adjudicator made a number of suggestions regarding a survey of wildlife flora and fauna and the possible production of a wildlife survey and information boards on same. This would be a wonderful opportunity to further the wildlife agenda and have a truly educational value particularly in your area so rich in natural wildlife habitats.

Litter Control:

It is good to see that you have a programme of litter picking being carried out on a regular basis and the facility of having an RSE worker to compliment the committee's efforts is certainly paying dividends. Well done on this effort!

Waste Minimisation:

The adjudicator notes that no further progress has been achieved under this heading. We would encourage you to continue discussion with a view to having a facility provided. The clothing bring bank centre at Doocey's Garage was noted and this facility was clean and tidy and well presented. It is to be hoped that this programme will be developed in the coming years and that more initiatives in the Race Against Waste booklet will be adopted by your committee in the future.

Tidiness:

The village had a generally tidy appearance and this will be further enhanced with the completion of the Community Centre project. As already stated above, under the Built Environment section, a further improvement would be the repainting of the old Creamery and St Patrick's Hall. The broken wall sign at Doocey's Pub should be removed or reinstated. The Four Mile Water Hurling Club is a tremendous facility centrally located. The grounds are presented to a nice standard and were neat and tidy and the building was well presented.

Residential Areas:

Individual residences are generally well maintained throughout the village. Deerpark View is a successfully designed new scheme that has integrated extremely well with the existing village. The house design is attractive and very much in scale and harmony with its location. Phase One of the scheme is now maturing nicely and the avenue of deciduous trees along both sides of the entrance road looked splendid. The more recently completed phase of the scheme has a well maintained enclosed green area. It is hoped that tree planting will be continued apace with Phase One. Some very attractive individual private gardens were admired. Phlás Naomh Mháirtin continues to have a high standard of presentation to both individual residences and gardens.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Previous adjudicators made a number of suggestions on tree planting opposite the Garda Station that would be a considerable enhancement to the village and further suggestions were made on the provision of a footpath particularly in the light of the continuous traffic movement through the village. It is hoped that a final coat of road surfacing will be carried out at Deerpark View on the short term. The entrance roads from both Clonmel and Dungarvan looked well and the highlight here was the wonderfully colourful presentation of the well landscaped grotto.

General Impression:

Ballymacarbry is a charming village in a wonderful location and the commitment of the TidyTowns committee will continue to prove a great asset. We wish you well in your future plans.

