

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballycullane** Ref: **128**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **259**
Category: **B** Date(s): **26/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	259

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2009 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included a completed application form, a detailed work programme up to 2011 and an informative village map which was of great assistance to the adjudicator in finding the various locations and made the visit especially enjoyable. Your work programme gave a clear outline of the objectives you intend to achieve up to 2011 and this will help to give a clear focus to the efforts of the committee. Well done on this approach!

The Built Environment:

The original village of Ballycullane had an interesting layout containing two clusters of formally laid out buildings, one at the Station area and the other being at the opposite end, at the Church. These were later joined by the more recent developments of residential and commercial buildings now forming the village core. It is a pity that the larnród Eireann lands at the Station are not maintained in a better condition as this is an important entry point to the village. Wallace's Shop and nearby houses are well presented. The Gala Shop was neat and clean and the school opposite with its very well maintained grounds is a nice centrepiece. The colourful murals here add a nice touch of interest. The Garda Station with its nice creeper and the small scale Post Office with the nearby marigold bed were highlights. Beyond this was a particularly nice vernacular white house with brightly coloured red doorways and windows. This house is surrounded by a cluster of small scale outbuildings that retain much of their original charm. It seems to this adjudicator that if these buildings were similarly painted up and enhanced with some nice colourful planting, this lovely area would provide a charming and atmospheric approach to the well maintained St. Martin's Church. The 1798 Memorial is a lovely feature located at the entrance to the Church. The Village Hall could be improved by the addition of some signage to identify its function. The nearby pub is a lovely old building, and again this strategically located building is at an entry point to the village. It would also be hugely enhanced by the addition of some well designed signage.

Landscaping:

Many of the landscaped areas in the village have been nicely integrated with the residential areas; St. Martin's being outstanding. One of the fine features historically is the lovely selection of hedgerows throughout the area which has been further enhanced in recent years. The planting of further hedgerows along the roadway fences, at the railway bridges, should be considered as a future project. Elsewhere, there is much evidence of the committee's hard work and your effective mobilisation of the wider community, as seen in the numerous window boxes, planted tubs and flower beds located throughout the village. Well done in this effort!

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As a rural village Ballycullane is rich in natural wildlife, green areas and habitats and perhaps a good way of raising awareness of environmental issues amongst the local community would be for the committee to further liaise with the local school to encourage local wildlife surveys. The results could then be illustrated on bi-lingual, wildlife boards providing a further interesting information point in the village. There are numerous attractive grass margins and green spaces throughout the village where these boards could be located.

Litter Control:

It is good to see that you have solved the problem of illegal dumping at Kinneigh Cross. Well done on this effort! Your daily litter patrols and litter awareness campaign in conjunction with the national school are obviously proving successful. However, on the day of adjudication small quantities of litter scattered on the ground were observed in the following locations; on the access road to the station; at the entrance to St. Martin's Park; and at the gateway to the sports complex.

Waste Minimisation:

It is noted that the Bring Centre which was located at the Gala Shop car park did not work out and it is to be hoped that a new location can be found in time. The Race Against Waste website contains a number of good ideas on waste minimisation. It is to be hoped that this programme will be developed by your committee in the coming years and that more initiatives from this website will be adopted in the future.

Tidiness:

Last year's adjudicator made a number of comments relating to tidiness and this year's adjudicator notes your plans for additional signposting at the Community Sports complex.

Residential Areas:

St. Martin's Park has really matured well and the new planting beds, surrounded by railway sleepers along the front boundary, are a great enhancement. The scheme itself is well laid out and the grassed areas freshly mown and well presented. There were a large number of children playing on the open space on the day of adjudication and grass cutting maintenance was being carried out, providing the scheme with a busy and vibrant atmosphere. Somers Way is also a nicely laid out scheme with good detail appropriate to a rural setting. The scheme is maturing nicely with some nice hedgerows and the central roundabout is well presented, containing a welcoming bi-lingual sign. The Fairgreen and Tintern Court are in need of substantial shrub and tree planting, as at the moment they look a little bare. Tree planting here should be carried out in groves or clusters and in time this approach would provide further enclosure for the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The village has a nice series of attractive approach roads and these were generally well presented and displayed well positioned announcement signs. It is noted that you are in discussions with Wexford County Council concerning the removal of a dangerous bend near the sports centre approach road. It is to be hoped that you are successful in this effort.

General Impression:

Ballycullane has undergone some recent new development and this, when completed, will enhance its existing attractive character. The commitment of the TidyTowns committee is proving a great asset and will continue to enhance the village's natural advantages. We wish you well in your future plans.