

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Ballygarrett** Ref: **127**  
County: **Wexford** Mark: **246**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **03/07/2009**

|                                | Maximum<br>Mark | Mark<br>Awarded 2009 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach   | 50              | 35                   |
| The Built Environment          | 50              | 29                   |
| Landscaping                    | 50              | 29                   |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50              | 22                   |
| Litter Control                 | 50              | 39                   |
| Waste Minimisation             | 20              | 9                    |
| Tidiness                       | 30              | 20                   |
| Residential Areas              | 40              | 21                   |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 50              | 34                   |
| General Impression             | 10              | 8                    |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>400</b>      | <b>246</b>           |

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome to the Tidy Towns Programme for 2009 and thank you for the detailed Entry Form, inclusive of village map and details of the Ballygarrett Sea Shore Sites Project. This is a most imaginative project and we will be most interested in the results.

There is a difficulty in identifying the actual start point of the village travelling south from River chapel and this is something that you may wish to give some thought to over the winter. Entering from Blackwater of course the small bridge supplies the natural start point.

Your twining with Refugio in 2001 brings a 19th century event once again into sharp relief.

The near by wind farm certainly fills the sky to the south. These new and very tall items are increasing a feature of the country side. Like mobile phone masts it is difficult to be against them while at the same time enjoying the services of which they are an essential part.

### **The Built Environment:**

Ivy Cottage looked most attractive. The Schooner was looking very enticing but the free standing promotional stand would benefit from painting before next year's competition. Macamore Inn in its brave colouring of deep red with green shutters certainly caught the eye. The charming thatched cottage was admired. The new pavement is a great addition and helps greatly in the orderly presentation of the village. The traditional round white washed gate pillars once so numerous on the coast of Wexford were a joy to see again.

### **Landscaping:**

Planting outside the hedges is most colourful on the roadsides leading into the village. Great use has been

made of recycled railway sleepers and low level stone walls. The three tiered planters were well stocked.

The presentation of the Catholic Church grounds is of a very high order. There were three flags flying – albeit there are five flag polls. The flying of flags is one of the least expensive enhancements one can recommend, bringing colour and movement to the scene in an instance. The very moving famine monument was well positioned and suitably presented. The long list of those involved in the emigration to Texas and their story, is well recorded in the fine monument whose very existence forges a new and welcome link between the two trans-Atlantic communities. The Grotto was colourful and well displayed.

The old boat and the cart in the display on the Kilnamanagh Road is a pleasant arrangement. To prevent the cart appearing to have a 'flat tyre' use a discrete length of iron on the inside of the wheel underneath the cart to support the axle! Well done on the number of planters throughout the village.

The Cahoke Cemetery reflected well on the attention it is receiving and especially the extensive hanging baskets on the front wall.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The springboard for a bird count arising from the excellent wild life board is a good example of the linked reality of one event leading to another. The hedgerow awareness equally will provide many enquiring minds with just the correct stimulation to explore discover and enjoy all that the area has to offer. The sea-shore project has many opportunities to view and become aware of the rich bird life of the coastal region.

### **Litter Control:**

There is very little need for comment in respect of litter as it did not feature at all on the day of adjudication. Litter bins were noted and apart from a very minor out brake near the Old weighing scales we can report the village was almost litter free.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The Sunday market at the Old School is an opportunity to put re-usable items back into circulation. The bring centre on a hard stand in the church grounds combines the three requirements for such a facility (a) central location (b) convenient to park while using it and (c) high visibility to deter any (should there be one) person tempted to dump items rather than place them within the various containers. Small wonder it won the best bring bank award in the South East 2006.

The huge success of the scrap metal collection for the benefit of charities was obviously a great success. Do you plan to make it an annual event?

### **Tidiness:**

The damage done to the old weighbridge is certainly hard to take. It is always difficult to begin again when your best efforts are set at nought by the mindless and mean actions of vandals. We hope you will somehow bring this most unusual reminder of times past once again to its former fine condition. It is such an interest and appealing cameo of local history.

The farm building at the junction of the Cahore Point Road would be greatly enhanced by simple white lime washing. Perhaps the poster advertisers might be persuaded to share the cost.

### **Residential Areas:**

It is pleasant to note the positive response to your decision to circulate the report for last year, in that a number did in fact plant trees, shrubs and under took other tasks to get involved and help out. Experience suggests that this is a cumulative effect and you can look forward to an even better response this year.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Very fine village name plate and we applaud the good planting behind the stone. This is excellent as in so many cases well meaning planting in front of village names stones end up obscuring the name of the village which was the object of the exercise in the first place!

### **General Impression:**

Ballygarrett is a small community endowed by history and its citizens with a range of houses and buildings

which some might say is a legacy common to all Irish towns and villages. The difference in Ballygarrett is what you have done about these matters. Your success in the Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition last year and the quality of the programme you have devised this year, speaks volumes for the creative imagination which you have brought to bear on your heritage and area. We look forward with great interest to the outcome of the Ballygarrett Sea Shore Sites Project. Are there any plans to mount an exhibition of the results of the survey?