

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyragget** Ref: **871**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **230**
Category: **C** Date(s): **02/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	230

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Ballyragget back to the Tidy Towns Competition. It is really great to have you back and your entry is important to the Competition. This is a most attractive village, with a most interesting history of which this adjudicator was totally unaware. Thank you for the completed entry form and the various supporting documents, those were most helpful on adjudication day. It is good to read that you have good support from FAS, the County Council and a number of other agencies. Local support for your work also appears to be strong. The photographs supplied were most interesting and helpful. Thank you also for the book on the Donoughmore Graveyard, which will be read with great interest, as this adjudicator has also been involved in another Graveyard publication. The monthly meetings and the meeting with the business community indicate a well organised Tidy Towns Committee. The 3 Year Plan is a basic practical document and hopefully, you revise it at the end of each year. The notes that you provided at the end of the entry form were also read with interest, together with the Press cuttings supplied. The 'Ballyragget Need You' poster is a great publication and certainly gets the message across.

The Built Environment:

The improvements to the old Hotel site are enormous and this building is now well presented. The Credit Union building and Harrington's Bookmakers caught the eye because of the rather good graphics used here. On the south side of The Green, the new stone archway was much admired and this compliments various other archways noted in Ballyragget. The Red Barn building was rather untidy and may have been 'For Sale' at the time of the visit. This is an important building that closes the view down the street. A good colour scheme for this building will be most important. The Square was much admired and it is indeed the core feature of the town village centre. Good landscaping and good presentation was much admired here. The School was neatly presented and some good trees here soften the visual impact of the building. Across the road from The Castle Gardens, the relatively new retail area here is quite well presented. Visible wirescape on

two buildings here looked a little untidy. The Castle tower stands out in Ballyragget and is indeed, a historic landmark.

Landscaping:

The Green is such a large area to maintain, but on adjudication day it was indeed well presented. The long timber fencing will need to be maintained from time to time. The Square has been mentioned above and this is a most attractive village feature. Hanging baskets and window boxes in various locations added additional colour. Trees in the area help to bring the surrounding countryside into Ballyragget. Along by the old petrol pumps perhaps, there is potential for additional landscaping or individual landscaped areas.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The visit from the ecologist was obviously most valuable and this adjudicator totally agrees that the bridge should not be flood lit. The 2009 Wildlife and Natural Amenities Report was examined with great interest and this gives you a lot of excellent advice and guidance for future years. In your entry form, you raise the issue of what to do with the area between the two river bridges. This adjudicator suggests that this area becomes a wildlife habitat and Riverside Park for the people of Ballyragget and visitors. Off-road car parking would have to be included, as well as facilities for the disabled.

Litter Control:

The Bring Centre clean up is commended and the presentation here was fine on adjudication day. Much litter was present in Greenview estate and a little around The Green. Castle Gardens was also littered and litter was noted along the roadside, opposite Gambia. A mild scattering of litter was evident along the streets. However, the overall litter control situation was not, by any means, out of control. Well done to the people of Ballyragget!

Waste Minimisation:

Your work with the Schools on the Green Flag programme is most important and is considered under this heading. This section is about how the waste generated in Ballyragget can be reduced. Therefore, the waste that remains becomes the issue. It is suggested that the Committee looks at Ballyragget in waste reduction terms. Perhaps, there are some businesses that can be approached in this regard. The recycling report provided was of great interest.

Tidiness:

On one side of the Green, a narrow untidy site was noted and cutting the grass here would make a big difference. In general terms, Ballyragget was found to be quite tidy.

Residential Areas:

At Greenview, some kerb weed needed attention and at Glenvale, this large estate would be improved by additional private landscaping. Grove Terrace was also visited and some good hedging here was admired. The fine sloping central grass area at Brookfield, with the semi-mature trees, was excellently presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main approach roads to Ballyragget were generally well presented and some good verge areas were much appreciated. On the Durrow approach, some untidy areas on the left and right at the bridge needed attention. Growth needed to be cut back and trimmed. The Moate approach needed work from the 50 KPH signs in to the Fair Green. The new road surfacing has been noted.

General Impression:

It is good to have Ballyragget back in Tidy Towns and the adjudicator wishes you every possible success for the years ahead.