

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballydehob** Ref: **664**
County: **Cork(West)** Mark: **293**
Category: **B** Date(s): **08/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	44	44
The Built Environment	50	37	37
Landscaping	50	39	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	33	33
Litter Control	50	40	40
Tidiness	30	17	16
Waste Minimisation	20	11	11
Residential Areas	40	29	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35	35
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	293	293

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your most comprehensive and informative submission complete with detailed map and list of projects. Thank you also for the large range of photographs. Your impressive list of associations contributing to the improvement of Ballydehob suggest you have an active commitment willing to seek help and cooperation from other agencies and this is commendable. Your town has much to offer and much to protect and maintain. Your great 12 arch bridge has been for some time a feature of national distinction and a poignant remembrance of the narrow railway days. The view from the bridge is unique and we wonder if it is possible to offer a full view of ALL the arches by removing some material. Your town has many different levels and many a good deal of old and now deteriorating buildings. There is evidence of 19th century activity in the rear and back areas of Main Street, remnants of former days. Some of these are very untidy and are exposed to pedestrian traffic in the town. You also have a great deal of unoccupied premises, some almost derelict. These problems and others will need to be tackled if you are to advance further in the competition. We think it is time for a new and vibrant five year plan to deal with the many new situations we now find ourselves in, in an era of declining shops in the town and some infrastructural problems which need to be addressed.

The Built Environment:

The town has a great deal of large and impressive buildings facilitating religious, cultural, commercial, educational and sporting requirements. Outstanding is St. Brigids Church, which because of its location has good parking facilities, a problem now being experienced in the town centre. We liked the Community Centre and allied facilities at this site. The schools are well presented and we congratulate the St. Brigids NS for the achievement of a 4th Green Flag. You have many traditional shopfronts that are very much welcomed by visitors and locals alike. Some, like Antonio's Restaurant have attractive features of great distinction. Others included Rosie's, Sand Boat and Levis McSweeney, J.O. Farrell, (now one of a few), and AIB. Many of former

attractive traditional shops have now closed and are deteriorating. Scoil N. Mattias is very well presented and the 'animal presence' is startling. Lovely pair of wrought iron gates at entrance to the Church of Ireland Church.

Landscaping:

You have worked hard on this section and your tree planting of previous years continues to serve you well. You have a delightful array of well managed ash trees that seem to flourish in this area. Your plethora of free standing hanging baskets on Main Street and the many containers through the town help to add colour. The children's playing park on the approach to the town is really well presented and was in good use on adjudicating day. The flowers at Dannoes Statue are good but we would suggest you develop a flower bed and cultivate a rich rose bed with a variety of colour: it would brighten up this monument and attract more viewers. We acknowledge your painting blitz on the street furniture. Your policy to plant more trees is welcome and commendable. Well done on the flower displays at the approach from Bantry.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your work on the provision of bird boxes and amenity walk is acknowledged. You have wonderful opportunity to raise your mark further in this section because of your advantageous location near the sea. You have done well over the years in the provision of facilities for wildlife and the promotion with schools etc. Your tree planting of rowan provides valuable food for birdlife and also the many berry bearing shrubs that will favour wildlife.

Litter Control:

Your mark is high and you have worked hard in association with An Taisce and the national spring clean up that remains so successful. We are puzzled that you would need to organise daily clean ups in the town or are these aimed at special tourism related events. The town on adjudication day did not have a litter problem and this is commendable.

Tidiness:

You have problems in terms of unoccupied premises, untidy rear and back yards and unattended open spaces together with dirty signs and posts. You need to remove the West Cork Golf Range sign at the bridge. It is unsightly at this focal point. The Garda Station avenue entrance showed no improvement this year and the water pump needs to be improved in presentation. The archway entrance opposite the Gala station exposes a very untidy back area, to include abandoned cars and some dereliction. This is an unsightly view for visitors and locals. Your new plan should include the under grounding of overhead cables and the removal of large timber service poles, e.g. outside St. Brigid's Church. The chain link fencing and the adjacent building at the corner of Chapel Land needs improvement leading up to the church. The work at the Gazebo is well carried out and we commend you for same, well done.

Waste Minimisation:

We feel you have made excellent progress in this section and you seem to have a good understanding of what is required. Well done on all the educational efforts in this respect and your visit to the schools. Distributing booklets to every house is most praiseworthy.

Residential Areas:

Premises mentioned last year are all well maintained. One row of houses at the lower end of the town took our fancy, the row of two storey houses opposite Gala and in particular the Cobblers House. Houses at The Terrace and Church Road and Schull Road all looked well and the feature of a stone wall is welcome.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach road from Skibbereen is excellent with most attractive tree planting, flower displays and lovely well presented houses. This approach provides a welcome 'first impression' to the town. You need to curtail any extra signs at this entrance. We liked the premises at Bóthar Ard Glas with attractive hanging baskets: could The Forge be painted for 2013. You have many poorly presented finger signs through the town that need painting, many visible on the photos you sent us. If the council won't clean and paint them you need to do so yourselves.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit this town of history and character and see first hand the many projects you have developed down through the years. Your work has been much appreciated and has contributed to numerous improvements for the economic benefit of the town and community. Thank you for your sustained participation

in the TidyTowns Competition. We wish you well for the future.