

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyduff Upper** Ref: **1072**  
County: **Waterford** Mark: **242**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **07/06/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	50	31	32
Landscaping	50	32	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15	15
Litter Control	50	35	36
Tidiness	30	18	18
Waste Minimisation	20	6	6
Residential Areas	40	32	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31	33
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>242</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Ballyduff Upper is very welcome to the 2012 National TidyTowns Competition. You are to be commended on expanding the number of members on your committee in recent years. Your engagement with the Local Authority, Community Council and other local organisations is now very apparent in the presentation of your village and the overall atmosphere portrayed provides a welcoming feeling to the visitor. Your efforts to promote your TidyTowns involvement are to be commended and it is noted that you engage with a number of local media outlets. Your committee are again encouraged to produce a three year plan that would give focus to your on-going work programme and prioritise your efforts.

### The Built Environment:

Ballyduff Upper has considerably improved in appearance with recently completed road surfacing giving the feeling of a newly laid carpet and highlighting the attractiveness of street buildings. The village centre has a busy appearance with a cluster of well-presented commercial buildings including R.Tobin's, An Sibin, The Log Cabin, Ballyduff Health Centre, Gala Express and the River Hair Studio. The former J.Harris shop is a building retaining a fine vernacular, architectural quality and merits long-term preservation. Like many Irish villages the recession has taken its toll resulting in the closure of some former local businesses and consequently some of these have resulted in decay and dereliction. It would be worthwhile to have a conservation assessment of your village carried out as many buildings retain some fine details such as sash windows, dormer windows, slate roofs, decorative ridge tiles and attractive entrance doors. The River Action Restaurant looked well and the adjacent town house is magnificent and retains all of its traditional architectural qualities. Church Street is very well presented and here McCarthy Hardware and The Credit Union looked very well. The Church and its well-maintained grounds set a good standard. Well done on good building presentation and stone well repairs. The school and its grounds were clean and tidy but would be improved by painting the boundary wall and railings. The Garda Station is unique and has an imposing

location.

### **Landscaping:**

Hard and soft landscaping at the Muintir na Tire complex is to a good standard. The tiered car parking area opened in 2011 is impressive with individual car parking spaces enclosed by a stone wall and nicely painted railing. The sign at the planted shrubbery at the entrance area contains well-proportioned bold lettering. The shrubbery itself was in need of a freshening up and some weed control. Elsewhere in the village there was an attractive array of colourful planting including window boxes and flower displays. Last year's adjudicator gave some good advice on landscaping that is particularly relevant in a village on the River Blackwater and having such a wonderful woodland backdrop. It is encouraging to note that you received some funding from the County Council to help with your landscaping efforts. The Macallop Development will be an impressive addition and the location commands some panoramic views particularly of the elevated old Church of Ireland. The old bridge, recently exposed, contains some very fine stonework and vegetation nearby has been carefully managed. Well done on the removal of laurel here and at the Church. The Grotto was presented to a high standard at an important entry point to the village.

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

We note that you have commenced work on your three year plan in this category in conjunction with the County Wildlife and Horticultural Officers. You are to be commended on seeking professional advice on your anticipated wildlife agenda.

### **Litter Control:**

Your litter campaign is obviously working well as the village was substantially litter free except for a small scattering of paper on the riverside close to the bridge. Your on-going co-operation with Waterford County Council is an excellent and successful initiative.

### **Tidiness:**

The completion of the car park and the resurfacing of the streets have made a dramatic visual improvement in this category and augur well for the future. The lantern public lights at the car park and bridge are impressive. The new directional sign at the cross has a reduced scale in keeping with its urban location and sets a high standard for other villages to emulate.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The Bring Centre is well located at the Community Grounds and is generally well presented, although it was a little weedy along the ground level. Some spoil close by could be tidied up and the entrance area freshened up. Well done on your initiatives with the Community Council, the GAA Club and the school.

### **Residential Areas:**

A number of individual houses and gardens were admired throughout the village. The infill housing scheme, incorporating the Credit Union, located opposite the Church, has a nice proportion and scale and is a fine enhancement to Church Street. Cois Abhann looks very well and has a nicely maintained, grassed, open space area. This area would be further enhanced by additional planting to create more enclosure. Opposite, Marian Terrace had some very colourful planting arrangements to both individual houses and gardens and the green area was well presented.

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

The Lismore approach road has improved dramatically and again recent road surfacing has made a great visual impact here. The village name sign was nicely presented as is the opposite sign at the Creamery entrance. This entrance is further enhanced by the presentation of the adjacent Grotto. Last year's report outlined some negatives and it is to be hoped that you can make some progress on these issues.

### **General Impression:**

Ballyduff Upper retains a strong and cohesive urban character where newer buildings have been successfully integrated. Well done on this year's successful campaign.