

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballitore**

Ref: **840**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **235**

Category: **B**

Date(s): **01/07/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	50	34	36
Landscaping	50	36	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18	18
Litter Control	50	24	24
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	3	4
Tidiness	30	14	14
Residential Areas	40	29	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33	33
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	230	235

Overall Development Approach:

Ballitore Tidy Towns are welcomed to the 2013 competition. Your entry in the competition is important to the Tidy Towns. Thank you for your entry and map. Do mark what the project number indicates on the map otherwise the adjudicator could miss out on some vital project. Groups are also encouraged to submit a 3 year plan for the area. This way yearly projects can be planned. You may have someone in your group who could do such a plan, if not funding maybe available from the partnership to have your plan done professionally. Your committee of 10 with the assistance of a C.E. scheme are working well with Kildare County Council and Glanbia. It is good to see that the school are involved when required. It is also good to note that the committee has positive feedback from the community as a result of entering the competition. Glanbia are a good support to the group and they are still expanding in the current climate.

The Built Environment:

On entering the village one cannot but notice the work at Glanbia which is good. When complete it will add to the area and it is good for the village to see progress. The community here have not forgotten past heroes of the village as some nice commemorative plaques were noted. Two plaques were noted at the shaker store dating back to 1798. The post box was in memory of another past resident back to 1792. The Library and the museum, another fine amenity of the village were noted. The businesses such as O'Connor's pub and Kelly's pub were admired. The Post Office and Daybreak which has also expanded, all play a major role in this village and add character to the streetscape. The pump area with nice stone troughs looked well. Quaker of friends building, which also had some restoration completed makes the building more amenable for activities. Shaker store another important part of the village history was noted. Last but not least little flowers Montessori looked nice and neat.

Landscaping:

There are some very attractive areas of landscaping throughout the village. There were pleasant containers of flowers on the corner of little troopers which looked well. The trees in this area which are planted in containers, the adjudicator felt that if they need more space to develop in larger containers or if permitted planted in the ground. Large tub 'Keep Ballitore Tidy' at arched area looked good, perhaps a couple of seats in this area would be a nice addition. There was also a nice area at the corner of Thoran Road but it was felt that the plastic pots were not in keeping with the stone of the village. The amenity area opposite this corner was well presented. At

River Greese Bridge the parapets had containers of flowers. The flowers were lovely but not sure about the plastic underneath, it was felt that it is not in keeping with the stone bridge. There were many colourful displays in hanging baskets and tubs that added colour to the village. The corners at N9 will look well when landscaped and add to the approach to the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Along the river Greese there are plenty of natural areas for wildlife and this area could be developed further by carrying out a survey of the area and present this on information boards. The findings of the survey would be educational for the community. The many hedges along the roads leading into the village are also prime areas for wildlife. The importance of not cutting hedges during the nesting season is to be observed. Do continue to work with Birdwatch Ireland and the local councils in the area and try and develop further amenities. It was noted that you have left some areas for wildlife throughout the village with suitable signage, do keep up this trend.

Litter Control:

Litter can be difficult to combat without general clean ups and regular picks. The clean ups in spring and again in winter can eliminate any old litter that may be unnoticed under growth in summer. The village had some litter on day of adjudication near the pump area. Some litter also was noted behind the bridge and on the street near the library. Do continue your plan of litter awareness and persistence will win out in the battle against litter.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

This category has caused problems for groups in the past. Groups are encouraged to move beyond recycling but to take steps to reduce the amount of waste produced in the community. A survey of the area which would identify the type of waste that households produce would be a good start. You could then look at how this can be reduced. This area also looks at resource efficiency in general across the community in areas such as water, energy and transport. The whole community can participate in waste minimisation activities along with recycling waste. It can save money for the community. There are also many reuse initiatives that can be adopted. Do try and organise a survey and keep a copy of results and send them along with next year's application

Tidiness:

There was some untidiness on the road to the meeting house. The footpath here needs to be cleared of leaves. The road surface was also uneven. Graffiti was noticed near the bridge and there was also some weed growth at kerbs in this area. There is nothing too major to address but if addressed would improve the village in this category.

Residential Areas:

The residential areas of the village were admired. This community has pride in their area and it shows in the presentation of the residences. Estates visited were Abbeyfield which had an entrance with a lovely bed of annuals. Millview estate also had pleasant landscaping, sculptor and playing field, a nice amenity for the area. Throughout the village there were many houses, well maintained to a very high standard. The old and new blended together to form a very attractive streetscape. Well done to all for the excellent and well maintained gardens, hanging baskets and tubs that have brought colour to the area.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads had some well-placed "Welcome to Ballitore" stones with generally neat grass verges. However on the road to Quaker Meeting house grass verges looked untidy. The concrete paling on this road needs some attention. There was also a pole without a sign on this road that needs to be removed. The burial ground gate at Quaker burial ground is in need of painting.

General Impression:

Ballitore is an attractive rural village. Like most villages it has seen an increase in the built environment. This old village has blended well with the new developments. The group are addressing problems that have occurred as a result of these developments and are striving to make the area more attractive both for the community themselves and visitors to the area. Well done on your work done for this year's competition and continued success in future.