

Tidy Towns Competition 2014

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballydesmond** Ref: **91**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **221**
Category: **A** Date(s): **08/07/2014**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014
Community Involvement & Planning	60	31
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	26
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	18
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	25
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	28
TOTAL MARK	450	221

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the comprehensively filled entry form and the very useful map which was perfect for the task at hand. You have 6 on your committee which is probably not enough for the scale of your village. You could see if you could recruit more, especially young people, who aren't represented you say on your group. The adjudicator saw many people enjoying the facilities at the sports ground and there are surely people who would help out if asked. Does Ballydesmond have a Facebook page or a community website? These are good ways to get people aware and interested. In the meantime, you are back in the competition after a short absence and that's great. You'll have to consider putting a plan together in due course. Have a look at the Tidy Towns website for advice in this regard.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

The community centre looks great now. There were many children enjoying the playground and older kids playing football watched by parents. The car-park here was very neat. The recycling bins were in good order. The chain-link fencing here is damaged slightly.

The Credit Union looks quite well but the adjudicator wondered why the mirrored windows are needed here. They don't look good. Couldn't wooden blinds maintain any privacy levels required? The Centra looks very poor due the bland generic window signage and overly large signs which have no place in a village streetscape. All of the public houses look well as they so often do. The Post Office was in good order and nice planters were noted here.

A great job has been done on tidying up the abandoned premises opposite the Post Office. Tír na nÓg is extremely neat with good quality window-boxes. Your entry form says that you have got the Garda Station done. What has been done, exactly? The site here has many possibilities.

The church is lovely building. The car-park lines need to be redone here. The national school's garden could be so much better. Flowering shrubs would add colour. The school enjoys fantastic views across the countryside. There is a loose cable to the right hand side of the building. Could the satellite dish be moved to the gable, perhaps?

A couple of commercial premises could be tidied up a little.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The landscaping at the stone in the GAA car-park was admired. Planters were noted in a few areas. The Credit Union could do better with the area to the right hand side of the building. Some individual householders have made

a great effort with planters. More work is needed in this area as you have said so yourselves in your entry.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

The riverside walk was visited - a great resource. You are not encouraged to introduce ducks or any other wildfowl. Let these come along naturally if they are going to. Not every river or watercourse is suitable for ducks. If there are known to be bats under the bridge, please bear them in mind with regard to any future plans here such as footbridges. The bridge should never be floodlit as this will impact greatly upon the bats. The bridge and river are lovely. There is some Japanese knotweed upstream and cherry laurel downstream. Both should be removed but only with expert assistance or you may make things worse with every good intention. The fishing signage here is in need of repainting. The old sepulchre stone was admired here.

In order to improve in this category, you should look at carrying out a specific wildlife project. All sorts of wildlife projects may be carried out- these may involve planting native species, identifying existant species, or erecting bird/bat boxes. For this last, you will need expert advice. You are advised to work with the national school on this section of the competition. You could also get advice from the local wildlife ranger, the County Council or from the Irish Wildlife Trust or Birdwatch Ireland.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

You are advised to work with the national school on this section of the competition. There is great overlap between the early stages of the Green School project and this category of the competition. Really good information was provided last year by the Tidy Towns Unit on this category. It can be found at www.tidytowns.ie/publications.php. Go as well to the website of the local authority prevention network (LAPN) at <http://toolkit.localprevention.ie/> for community-based tips and information. You could also get advice from the County Council's environmental awareness officer.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Well done on your good levels of organisation on the litter-picks. The adjudicator did see some litter on adjudication day. Car-borne litter could well be a problem for you. Your participation in events such as the Clean-up Challenge are great ways of raising awareness and getting people involved.

Posters and other advertisements should not be attached to telegraph poles. Your weed control needs to improve. It's great that you are getting support from companies such as Munster Joinery. Might they be persuaded to sponsor your own anti-litter competition?

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

The adjudicator was most impressed with the painting that has been carried out on residential buildings on the Main Street. Really lovely work has taken place. Well done to the householders. One example is the 2-storey house opposite the Credit Union and a former garage (it is presumed) opposite Danny Matty's pub.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

Road surfacing was not good throughout. The Centra car-park was neat but the plastic banners look very cheap. The footbridge project for your border crossing would be a great addition as this bridge is somewhat precarious for pedestrians and cyclist with fast-moving traffic. Do see if you could pursue this. Make sure that your road signs aren't obscured by vegetation as a couple are on the R582.

Well done on all of your work to date and best of luck in the coming years in the Tidy Towns Competition.