

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballincollig** Ref: **661**
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **298**
Category: **G** Date(s): **12/06/2012**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	47	47
The Built Environment	50	38	40
Landscaping	50	41	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27	28
Litter Control	50	33	33
Tidiness	30	19	22
Waste Minimisation	20	12	13
Residential Areas	40	33	33
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	288	298

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2012 National Tidy Towns Competition and thank you for your initial submission and later photographs re the Rosewood site. The committee have worked hard at establishing a strong working relationship with Ballincollig's stake holders; this has been fruitful as evidenced to date in the presentation of your lovely town. It is pleasing to note the range of communications methods used by the committee to circulate Tidy Towns news and events; the brief achievement list to each business annually is a nice touch and no doubt is effective in fundraising. The Gun Powder Mill site was very much enjoyed and appreciated and interpretation here is good. Ballincollig's Town Twinning with Saclay is noteworthy.

The Built Environment:

The great majority of Ballincollig's shopfronts are nicely presented and it was a pleasure to note how very few inappropriate signs are present in the streetscape, this is a fine achievement. A word of caution however although not a prevalent feature on the streetscape roller security shutters were noted on O'Donovans Off Licence, Wah Yun Chinese Restaurant and the Yellow Cabs premises; discourage their use where possible, shutters can be placed inside and behind an attractive window display. The main thoroughfare enjoys good road and footpath surfaces in addition to onstreet planting and well painted premises. The stone entrance at East Gate is a nice feature also and the Oriel House Hotel and Leisure Facility provides valuable recreational amenity. It is a pleasure to note work accomplished since last year within the environs of the latter premises and other locations. A fine achievement and good luck for the future.

Landscaping:

Ballincollig town is characterised by neatly maintained grass verges, beautifully planted roundabouts and

stands of maturing and mature trees all complemented by green open spaces, well done. Sections of the Cork Regional Park need to be regrassed, especially around the interpretive panel and near the entrance to the parkland itself, however this wonderful recreational amenity facility enjoys good maintenance overall. No doubt as plants mature within the environs of the Lidl premises the membrane here will enjoy good cover. Landscaping in Ballincollig makes a strong, positive visual statement. Improvements to Time Square, The Main Street, Kilumney roundabout and many more have been noted however the unearthing of the limestone wall on Barry's Road is a real treasure and the person responsible is to be commended

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Mature stretches of hedgerow provide both for visual enclosure and offer a diversity of wildlife habitats it was a pleasure to note long stretches in Ballincollig. Wildlife interpretive panels at the Gael Scoil Choilm are acknowledged. The skateboard park in the regional park is an excellent facility and the entire park itself enjoys excellent interpretation. Ballincollig enjoys an abundance of wildlife including fen, walking trails, bird feeding stations and more, some still a work in progress; we would like to hear more on the at the Cloisters next year.

Litter Control:

The overall standard of litter control in Ballincollig is excellent; the statistics speak for themselves; almost 1500 voluntary attendees doing just under 1,900 hours work collecting 2,350 bags of rubbish! well done on dog fouling bins also. It is good to note the segregation collected litter for recycling.

Tidiness:

Congratulations on the ducting of overhead service cables on the Main Street, this is a fine achievement. Again a number of undeveloped sites have been noted in the town, the one on the Mechersdat road being the most problematic as it is overgrown and its concrete post fencing here is broken. The undeveloped site at The Old Quarter is not problematic as it enjoys good enclosure with a stone wall. A third site was noted located across from Smileys Tyre and Garage premises. Some weedy areas were noted along the Model Farm Road in the road median and on the banks near the bridge. Graffiti featured in the containers in the Regional park and in the skateboard park, while it is probably acceptable in the latter it seems less so on the containers; no graffiti was noted elsewhere. Having made these points, one must say that the overall appearance and presentation of Ballincollig is one of tidiness and the scope of projects undertaken over the past year is impressive.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling point in the Regional Park is neatly presented and was being well used at the time of our visit. Your recycling and general waste minimisation activities are effective and your education programme impressive too. The overall purpose of this element of the competition is to prevent waste being generated in the first instance, with this in mind perhaps an audit of the amount of waste produced in Ballincollig could be undertaken and used as a benchmark against which to measure future waste prevention. Ballincollig's registration with Green Homes is an important step in this direction. Well done to the schools for their Green Flag status.

Residential Areas:

Ballincollig is one of the few towns in the country whereby all housing estates are clearly signposted from the town centre and this facilitates easy access, well done. All residential estates are identified and entrances to all inspected were being maintained to a high standard and nicely landscaped. Coolroe Meadows has a most attractive namestone however the one for Wyndham Downs might be cleaned. Stone boundary walls on the Model Farm Road were admired but a few boundary walls and kerbs were in need of weeding in Cappa Park however all green open spaces here looked well. The Quadrant apartments are reasonably well presented. The green space marking the entrance to the Coolroe estate is a bit patchy in places and would benefit with reseeded. The Estates Competition appears to be an excellent motivator engendering a very real pride in our home-place. The Station Road Youth House redevelopment and polytunnel are favourably noted and we wish you success with your commitment to work on the garden and boundary.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All entrances to Ballincollig are beautifully presented in terms of street furniture, road and footpath surfaces, landscaping and roundabouts the latter were particularly admired; the cycle lanes are a wonderful facility also.

Grass verges at the nameplate on the Blarney entrance were a little overgrown and a bollard had been toppled on the footpath near Dinos and Bothar Saclay (in the small car park of the small shopping centre). The car parking sign here could be improved also. The car park of The Angler's Rest could be improved in respect of its surface. A few road signs on the N22 (Blarney) are obscured by growth on approaching. road and footpath surfaces are generally good and kerbs free of weed growth.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Ballincollig is one of a busy shopping town that is beautifully presented and has a wide range of facilities for the community, the travelling public and visitors in general. The numerous fingerpost signs and namestones make the town easy to negotiate