

Tidy Towns Competition 2018

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballitore** Ref: **840**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **249**
Category: **B** Date(s): **09/07/2018**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017	Mark Awarded 2018
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	36	36
Streetscape & Public Places	50	38	38
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	36	36
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	20	20
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	8	8
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	42	43
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	34
TOTAL MARK	450	248	249

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Ballitore Béal Atha an Tuair chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2018 agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Ballitore Tidy Towns (Residents Association) is most welcome to the Supervalu Tidy Towns competition 2018. Thank you for your Application Form and reference map. Your submission is very much appreciated. Your adjudicator fully understands the circumstances regarding the level of commitment which residents in Ballitore are currently in a position to commit to. Your willingness to submit an entry to the competition each year indicates a strong commitment to your community and you are commended for this. You have a Committee comprising 3 members, with 4 volunteers, and you are supported by Glanbia (Ballitore) and Kildare County Council. You have entered the Tidy Towns competition for more than 11 years and your involvement in the competition has improved the appearance of the village and is attracting greater numbers of passing visitors. Well done.

Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

What is very unique about Ballitore is the charming old stone wall boundaries which adorn many of the approach roads into the village and which add great character to the area. The historic built heritage of Ballitore is very striking and the traditional village street pattern remains intact. It is a shame to see that some sections of the stone boundary walls are now beginning to deteriorate in condition and it would be good to see these tastefully repaired, to match the existing, in the not too distant future. The Mary Leadbetter house was visited and the stone plaque on the wall of the building was positively noted providing information on the history of the house and also the signs for the opening times for the Library and Museum. Unfortunately, the Tidy Towns visit was on a Monday and the Museum and Library were closed. The stone plaques erected at the various locations in the village were greatly admired. The Shaker Store and Liz's Hair Salon were beautifully presented as was the Post Office and the Acorn's Kitchens premises. The clock over Angela's Takeaway premises was a lovely feature. Perhaps the shopfront sign at Angela's could be improved by providing for a more traditional design. It would be good arrange for streetname signage to be erected on end houses in the village, as appropriate. Overhead power lines are an issue and detract from the streetscape of Ballitore. However, the undergrounding of cables here would require significant funding. The E. Butterfield licensed premises is important and adds significantly to the character to the village and the facade and sign could be repainted and refreshed here. The Glanbia factory premises enhances the village streetscape, despite it's large and imposing scale.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

There are areas to the side of the entrance to the Glanbia site and along the building frontage where tree planting and landscaping could be introduced to soften the impact of this imposing building, as viewed from the road. The

pocket park along the Greese river was visited and this area was teeming with wildlife, including immature trout swimming in the river. There is great potential to create a river walkway or village park here. Perhaps the Glanbia company could assist in this? The area at the stone arches was visited and the wonderful stonework on display was greatly admired. There was an old black armchair present on the site, which had seen better days. The flower tub with the inscription 'Please Help Keep Ballitore tidy' was noted. Perhaps a small ornamental garden could be developed on this site in the future. The existing stone walls and arches, with display splendid high quality stonemasonry, would provide the ideal backdrop for such a garden.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

Your greatest asset in terms of wildlife and habitats in Ballitore Village is the small park situated along the Greese River. This could be developed as a small wildlife park or facilities provided for angling etc. A survey of bird life or aquatic life in the river could be undertaken by a wildlife expert in conjunction with local schoolchildren. A number of bird or bat boxes might also be erected on trees in this area.

Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:

You might consider installing a number of water butts in the village as a water conservation measure and to assist your Committee in watering the summer floral displays and flower tubs-these are quite inexpensive. The butts could be discreetly located in close proximity to your flower tubs, to reduce the ongoing burden associated with the watering operations during the summer period.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The road sign for Ann's Playschool Nursery and Crèche is now past it's usage date and could be replaced. In general signage in the village requires cleaning and Kildare County Council might be consulted in this regard. Littering was not found to be a problem in Ballitore - well done to all those who undertake ongoing maintenance of the village and along approach roads throughout the year.

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

At Mill View estate the striking piece of sculpture located on the main open space area was a highlight and it was wonderful to see all the children playing in this estate and enjoying the warm summer weather. Residential properties in Ballitore are generally presented to a high standard and the individual property owners are to be commended for the ongoing commitment to this work.

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

The welcome to Ballytore namestones and planting features on the main road made for a very good first impression of the village. The road signage along the approach to the village from the main road would benefit from cleaning, including the brown Tourist signs. It is disappointing to note that there has been a further deterioration of the condition of the wall along the boundary of Abbeyfield Estate. Where sections of old stone wall have collapsed it is imperative that these are repaired as soon as possible, as they are an essential part of the history and built heritage of Ballitore. In the first instance the owners could be requested to undertake the necessary repair works in a timely manner. All works should be sensitive to the unique traditional style of stonemasonry commonly found throughout the village of Ballitore i.e. with regard to the horizontal coursing of stonework/ bedding patterns and unique capping details.

Concluding Remarks:

Ballitore is a unique village which is intrinsically beautiful. Relatively minor improvement works, carefully planned and executed, could make a great impact on the presentation of the village. There is no doubt that Ballitore has great potential to progress in the competition because of the architectural quality of the streetscape coupled with the interesting street pattern and civic spaces. Keep up the good work.