

# Tidy Towns Competition 2019

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballycoog - Baile Chuag** Ref: **2146**  
County: **Wicklow** Mark: **263**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **12/07/2019**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2018	Mark Awarded 2019
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	37	38
Streetscape & Public Places	60	33	35
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	33	36
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	15	17
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	11	13
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	33
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>263</b>

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

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Ballycoog - Baile Chuag páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019. Many thanks for your entry form and map. A suggestion for future entries would be to number your projects sequentially through your form and then use the relevant numbers on the map to highlight projects you would like to draw the adjudicator's attention to. Well done on a very big committee for a very small village! This just demonstrates the strong community spirit you clearly enjoy in Ballycoog. For a small village you have an impressively long list of supporting community organisations and businesses.

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

Ballycoog is a beautifully situated village perched up high with wonderful views across the south Wicklow and north Wexford landscape. The streetscape is enhanced by the great maintenance and lovely planting schemes all around the public buildings. The development of Hubba's Park as a sensory garden will be looked forward to with interest and will provide more opportunity to extend the already great pollinator-friendly planting schemes you are using throughout the village with plenty of herbaceous perennials that can be split to provide planting material for the new garden! Make sure to download your free copy of the community version of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and the Pollinator Planting Code at [www.pollinators.ie/resources](http://www.pollinators.ie/resources) The latter guide provides long lists of all sorts of plants and trees for all sorts of situations, all of which are biodiversity and pollinator-friendly. This list will no doubt prove invaluable as you develop Hubba's Park. You list two future projects here with a new path linking the old and new graveyards and an extension to your Community Hall. These can be highlighted for adjudicators in future competitions.

### Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

You clearly have some wonderful gardeners in your midst in Ballycoog. The planting in your village centre in the church grounds is absolutely beautiful. It was full of colour on adjudication day and I could see that it is mostly perennial plants - just what we are trying to encourage in the Tidy Towns competition - great for our hungry pollinator species and far less cost and labour in the long run for Ballycoog Tidy Towns. I also noted that you had trimmed back the Cypress hedge from the back of your central car park as advised by last year's adjudicator and I'm sure you'll agree it was well worth it as the view is fantastic. All it needs now is a bench so everyone can sit down and enjoy the wonderful view! The village name rock is very attractive in the centre of the village with a lovely alpine planting scheme. The use of granite is great - very sympathetic to your surroundings.

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

Ballycoog National School makes a striking entrance to the village with its colourful display of beautiful herbaceous perennials that were buzzing with bees during the adjudication visit. This makes a wonderful example to other communities around the county about what is possible if we provide the right plants and habitats for our precious local biodiversity to thrive. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan mentioned above will have more ideas for you about different biodiversity projects to raise awareness locally and there are lots of other resources freely available at the website for guidance on different kinds of bug hotels etc.

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

Great to see your new recycling receptacles fitting in snugly at the edge of the church carpark. It sounds like you have a good understanding of sustainable practices in your community work with new recycling facilities and careful water usage. Last year's adjudicator suggested several websites for further ideas and guidance in developing this category for your community.

#### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

BDDA carries out a lot of work in this category – 70 bags of rubbish collected is a huge amount – well done on this important work. The Pure Mile is a project that has been latched on to by many Wicklow communities and it is reaping many benefits both for the environment and the health of all who walk the picturesque routes. Keep up your great work in this area, Ballycoog looked beautiful on adjudication day.

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

As mentioned above, it's clear there are several great gardeners in Ballycoog and the gardens and houses in your area were all admired on adjudication day.

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

Ballycoog is approached by several very picturesque country roads. Indeed the increasingly rare Yellowhammer was heard calling sweetly as I approached Ballycoog on adjudication day. This is a sign of a good surrounding environment so keep up your good work in Ballycoog.

#### **Concluding Remarks:**

I very much enjoyed my first visit to your picturesque village tucked away in the south Wicklow hills and I look forward to a return visit to see your future plans for Hubba's Park and your Community Hall develop.