

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballintotis**

Ref: **857**

County: **Cork(South)**

Mark: **213**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **21/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>213</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry into this year's TidyTowns Competition. Your entry form was well completed but don't forget that you can supply additional sheets with information if desired. Congratulations on your village website by the way. It is fitting that one of the newer participants in the TidyTowns Competition is making the best use of the web in this project. You are also making wise use of contact with other relevant organisations and this is hugely important.

### The Built Environment:

The national school looks very neat. Are they going for a green flag? The church and grounds were spotless. There is lovely planting here. The old style cross is very nice. Some works are going on at the side of the church at time of survey. The castle was being worked on on day of visit. The post and rail fence here gave an air of neatness and organisation. Good luck with the planning of the community centre. There is certainly plenty of space at the proposed site and it is a grand location.

### Landscaping:

The green area between the church car park and the lake is very nice. The picnic area on the N25 is very clean. A bit of wood stain on the benches would be good. The planted boat is really nice, well done. The junction at Baylough Lodge and the B & B could be prettied with some planting here. Some opportunities for judicious planting also exist at some of the newer housefronts.

### Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

A yellowhammer (a bird under threat at the moment) was heard singing right at the start of the survey: a good

beginning! There is definite scope for a very small woodland walk or project area at the alder woodland right beside the church. A very nice low-key path could be put through the drier area here. Ask the conservation ranger from the National Parks and Wildlife Service for advice. The Lake is a superb natural amenity. A fringe of bogbean, Typha, lilies willow, alder and horsetails make for a very rich invertebrate fauna. Great willowherb is common here too. Has there been a survey of the freshwater habitats here yet? Contact the Irish Wildlife Trust or Birdwatch Ireland for advice. The mature Scots pine at the church car park are lovely.

It is a shame that access to the lake is so limited. Consult with the Southern Regional Fisheries Board on this. Even beside the busy N25, sedges, figwort, pennywort and damselflies were enjoyed. The East Cork Bird Trail sign here is excellent. Some washing is needed at this time of year to get the mayfly casts of it! The SWRFB sign is really very good and adds much to the area. Well done on getting the Ballintotis logo on this. The shore angling information board is good too. There is no shortage of information here! The tree-planting from the moorings along the path was noted. The hedgerows of the village are a huge wildlife asset. Make sure that these are kept as good as they are now and not as brutalised as many can be.

#### **Litter Control:**

Some litter was noted at the nearest access point to the lake, on a little laneway. There is also a little fast-food derived litter on the N25 side and on the next road to the village.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

The efforts you report in your entry form are to be commended but these do not directly address the core of this issue: the reduction of waste in the first instance. You will need to work with local businesses, householders and your national school on this. Ask your local authority environmental awareness officer for advice on this section of the project. Many composters were seen in the gardens. There is a real opportunity to set new standards here by becoming a truly green village!

#### **Tidiness:**

The older OPW Tearman Fia-eam signs need some soap and water. The fingersign on the N25 for the B&B needs fixing up. The boat moorings are neat and tidy but it is a shame that the railings here are necessary.

#### **Residential Areas:**

There are some lovely houses with well-kept gardens in the village. Some landscaping will assist some of the newer houses. The derelict houses you referred to in your entry form were noted. Some painting may help.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

There are some really nice stone walls to be seen as well as lovely hedgerows and mature trees. Protect all of these! The new traffic measures for the turning points were noted. Was there a wildflower mix planted here on the N25? Lots of poppies, cornflowers and daisies were seen.

#### **General Impression:**

This is a really pleasant village that is well endowed with natural heritage. There are also historical aspects that could be explored and perhaps interpreted in time for the visitor. The less dramatic wildlife assets such as the hedgerows and trees should be kept as they are and treasured as the assets they will be for many years. For such a new entrant to the competition, Ballintotis has much to be proud of. It is hoped that the comments above will be of help. Get out and start recording the wild species of your village and use the web to tell how works are going on the castle.