

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYHEIGUE**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 12-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	31	31
The Built Environment	40	32	30
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	198	196

Ballyheigue, North Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for submitting questionnaire and sketch map. It is good to see that committee numbers have increased since last year, and that links with the local authority and other agencies have been resumed. I am aware that Ballyheigue is awaiting a new sewage scheme and that the planning authorities are putting a veto on any developments of a building nature until this project is complete.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The streetscape of the village looked very well as they were very many fine premises to be seen on what was a hot summer's afternoon. Many premises in the main street have been refurbished since last year and the contrast in paint colours is noteworthy. It is a pity that the standard of road surface does not match that of the buildings. On the negative side there were a number of prominent houses, which seemed to be unoccupied, falling rapidly into disrepair. The public buildings such as the Garda Station and the School are in excellent condition. The Church, which is a long way out from the village, was well kept although the graveyard boundary wall could benefit from a little pebbledashing. Our Lady's Well on the Causeway Road was also nicely kept. It would be unfair to single out any premises either in private or commercial use as all, with the exception of the derelict buildings, were in top class condition. There were some fine examples of two-storey village houses to be seen. The takeaway fast food outlets in the village were very clean except that there was litter scattered outside on the street. The Public Toilets were in very good condition but the Community Centre at least needs painting.

LANDSCAPING

Trees planted on the side of the Tralee Road are now maturing and in time will take away the bare look that greets one entering from that direction. The corner areas at the junction of the Causeway/Ballybunion Roads would benefit from a colourful planting arrangement. The Village Green was well kept as was the little shrub bed at Mountway near the Golf Club. It is hoped that when the new sewerage scheme is completed that all planting projects will resume.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Ballyheigue with its natural sea hinterland should be a haven for many forms of wildlife and the committee, in preparation for the future, should devise a wildlife programme. Advice should be sought from a local environmental expert and the local schoolchildren should be involved in drawing up plans.

LITTER CONTROL

The litter control was quite good except for the street area outside the takeaways. A few new litterbins are required. Keep up the good work.

TIDINESS

The standard in this category was reasonable. Grass cuttings were left scattered at the base of the attractive stonewall on the Tralee Road. The galvanised farm building needs to be oxidised as it looks a little unsightly as one enters from Tralee. The level of flyposting on shop windows has decreased a little but it is still excessive. Ballyheigue is not alone when it comes to this problem and hopefully the practice will cease in years to come.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residents of Ballyheigue keep their premises and adjoining areas in good condition are to be commended for this. Marian Park was in very good condition with stone flowerbeds dotted at appropriate spots on the green areas and the standard of individual gardens was also very high.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approaches to the village from Tralee and the coast road by the GAA Club were slightly improved from last year. The Causeway Road was quite good with the verges and hedgerows cut back appropriately.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballyheigue is an attractive seaside village that presents itself well. It has the potential to do even better in the Tidy Towns competition but that will only come about if all sections of the community in general work collectively for the betterment of the Village. It is hoped that when the sewerage scheme is completed you will be able to get down to serious village planning