

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	14	12
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	26
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	203	198

Ballyheigue, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The format of the tidy towns meeting and schedule of work planned shows great commitment and such an itemised approach will ensure success. The size of your committee is encouraging also and allows for good distribution of responsibilities. Much of the work of tidy towns committees is to try to encourage individuals within the town to co-operate.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is a very good standard of shops and business premises in the town. The stonework is of particular note. This is a great asset. It needs no maintenance and is both durable and attractive. The stone reflects the area from which it came. The arch entrance to the golf club is a lovely landmark. The Casement statue also contributes well in the position chosen. Shops and business premises hold a good standard. The church, even though it is isolated from the town, has a fine appearance and surrounds. The carparking is well laid out by the beach and is well proportioned with the extensive grassed areas.

LANDSCAPING

The open green spaces are nicely treated. The park areas by and below the Casement statue are very pleasant and allow people appreciate the seaview in comfort. Many individual gardens contribute greatly to the overall landscape of the town by the high standards they maintain. The roadside tree plantings are an asset. Natural grass banks are rightly preserved with their entire natural flora. The green spaces at Marian Park need some extra impetus. The stone surrounded borders look a little stark. Perhaps if they adjoined the background wall in informal shapes they may be more effective. Substantial planting is needed in these. A little less use of weedkiller would help here too, as the extensive bands of dead grass strips are a little excessive.

When choosing trees for planting, it is well to look around the area to see which trees flourish in the particular habitat – Sycamore, Ash and Hawthorn are predominant and these are then the ideal choice. The grounds of the church are nicely cared for with the well-trimmed lawn and hedge and huge cordyline tree.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The seacoast offers enormous potential for wildlife interest. Coastal plants and birds are the two obvious interests. More could be made of projects involving these subjects and greater appreciation would follow.

LITTER CONTROL

A good standard of litter control is in operation. A town with such an influx of visitors especially on fine days has a great challenge to face on the litter front.

TIDINESS

Overall a tidy appearance is evident. Some little deflections from this occur with the range of shops and the level of visitors.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Houses are kept well and as stated already the upkeep of gardens is an asset. This helps to give an attractive appearance of the town and is a way that every individual can help regardless of whether they are involved in the tidy towns.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces in places need attention. Bumpy roads and potholes make negotiation of the roads difficult in places.

The treatment of approach roads has to find a happy medium between retention of the natural wild flora of the roadside and safety and neatness, which can be difficult.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballyheigue presents a lovely picture with the beautiful coastline and background hills. The well managed greens and car parks by the sea are working very well and a very pleasant impression is given.