

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYBUNION**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	223	222

Ballybunion, Co. Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for detailed submission and listing of projects on hand and planned. Like almost every other town of its size Ballybunion is undergoing significant building-developments that are effectively changing the layout of the town. Your work in liaising with other agencies is praiseworthy and you seem to have a good positive relationship with the local authority. You have a very large area to cover, and your challenge is compounded by the large influx of visitors during the Summer months. However, you are coping well with your seasonal demands and the town looked well on a busy July day.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The first positive impression of the town is the condition of the road surface and the well defined marking system in place. The main street in particular has some fine buildings well presented. It is heartening to witness new developments in good taste and the message of using traditional materials and features seems to be getting through. Buildings that looked well again this year include Ballerina Amusements, J. Lynch., Geansaí, and Harty Costello. The Credit Union would benefit from painting and the Casino Amusement is a let down. The Garda Station at its focal location is very attractive. The treatment of the national school is attractive.

LANDSCAPING

You have worked hard in this section and the town had a great display of colour on adjudication day. It is obvious that there is good commitment from individuals, community and local authority to achieve such a widespread display of good landscaping. The Cliff Walk is excellent with good weed control here. The area leading down to the castle from the town centre is very untidy, with some rubble in evidence. Are there plans for developing this area? The many attractive flower and shrub displays on the approach roads give a good impression to the town.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have great scope and opportunity to raise your marks in this section. The amount of sea birds and wildlife is unlimited. You should broaden the use of display boards, especially where people congregate – this would lead to a greater understanding and appreciation of wildlife.

LITTER CONTROL

You have raised your marks here as the amount of litter in evidence on adjudication day was small. It is acknowledged that large crowds do create litter control

problems, but the town looked well. Litterbins are adequate in numbers and well spaced. It is the individual abusers who are causing your problems. The recycling unit is good, but getting some abuse from offenders discarding their litter.

TIDINESS

In general, the town looked tidy. Your problems here relate to unattended open spaces and unfinished building sites. You also have dereliction and unoccupied premises that project an image of untidiness. We look forward to improvements at the Atlantic Hotel.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Houses and gardens are a strong point in Ballybunion. The terraced houses near the Credit Union are excellent and we commend the residents. The relatively new accommodation block opposite Superfry is at a minimum, in need of a good wash down. Holiday homes are reasonably well presented. The Caravan Park on the Listowel Road is poor in presentation. The link road between Listowel Road and Golf Links Road is undergoing a great deal of development and is very undisciplined in appearance. Adherence to good planning is essential here.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

As mentioned earlier road structure and in particular town centre road surface is very good. Like most busy towns your problem of excessive traffic and inadequate off street car parking is obvious. Road signs are good but you might consider a new scheme for bilingual signage, to take cognisance of new developments. The Tourist Office sign should be bilingual also.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ballybunion looked bright, cheerful and inviting on adjudication day. You are coping well with new demands and new developments. Your challenge now is to tackle the black spots – many mentioned in previous reports and bring the community with you in your endeavours.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (09/08/01)

It is appreciated that you are making progress year by year and your list of achievements makes impressive reading. Nonetheless despite localised enhancements it is the overall impression which unfortunately is often the lasting one. For instance this adjudicator, looking out of a restaurant window, saw little apart from vast amounts of litter at the roadside kerbs, occasionally blowing into the air before resettling. The shrubberies at the junction of East End and Link Road were full of litter which had obviously been there for some considerable time. Unfortunately since the litter situation had worsened the extra marks referred to above have now been lost. Weed growth was a problem in many back areas, particularly evident in large open spaces

such Link Road carpark. While some commercial premises were fine private residences in general were the best presented aspect - most appeared to have been recently painted. We wish you well with your future endeavours!