

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-2001

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2001 | Mark Awarded 2000 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 33 | 32 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 33 | 33 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 27 | 26 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 18 | 18 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 27 | 26 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 14 | 14 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 22 | 22 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 25 | 25 |
| General Impression | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 206 | 203 |

Ballyheigue, Co. Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for detailed submission and photographs, together with copies of minutes of meetings. Your action in planning ahead is commendable. You would be well advised to formulate a three to five year plan that would chart the way forward and give you a discipline for your yearly work programme. Like Ballybunion and other tourist resorts, you have the challenge of accommodating large numbers of visitors during summer months. You also have a large area to cover, relative to your population.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

You have a good number of large buildings to maintain and many have attractive traditional features that deserve special attention. The church, though far removed from the village is well presented. It should be sign posted from the village centre. The colourful display of window boxes on the pharmacy was excellent. McMahon's shop front was well presented, together with Flahives. The hotel is well presented and looked well in this important location. The Garda Station could be much improved with some floral display.

LANDSCAPING

The park in the village centre is well presented and the Casement Statue is dramatic and well positioned. In general, grassed areas are well presented and maintained and seating was freshly painted. The Gold Club Car Park is very poor and needs a major surfacing development. Some interpretation on the castle ruin would be helpful to visitors. As mentioned last year you have scope for more tree planting of appropriate variety.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have great potential here for improvement and the plethora of seabirds and other species offer an opportunity to raise your marks here. From a tourism point of view this could be an attractive marketable product.

LITTER CONTROL

You have done well in this section and the village had good litter control in evidence on adjudication day. The recycling centre is good. Congratulations on your Blue Flag which reflects well on the community.

TIDINESS

There is unacceptable dumping of unwanted goods in the castle gatehouse. So near the village core, this is surprising. You also have some unsightly dereliction e.g. opposite O'Neills B&B. Many boundary walls need repairs

and painting.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard of houses throughout is good and many individuals have gone to great lengths to present excellent front gardens. In this section you are relying on the commitment from individuals.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The most disappointing aspect of Ballyheigue is the condition of the road surface. In particular the road from Hillcrest to the village is way below standard – quite a contrast to Ballybunion. Being a seaside village the approach roads offer a rich and varied display of wildflower colour. This can be especially appealing to visitors.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

You have all the environmental ingredients to present a village of high quality. On a pleasant July day the village looked well and was busy with trade and tourism interests. You should consider a village renewal plan that will enable you to raise your standards on a phased basis.