

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-08-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	40
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	21
Litter Control	40	29	29
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	227	223

Ballybunion, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballybunion is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. The town enjoys an enviable location and has an equally enviable range of recreational amenity facilities to offer residents and visitors. It is good to note that your work with statutory bodies and FAS workers plays such a vital role in the development of the town and, in particular, in the Tidy Towns effort.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Ballybunion has a wide range of public and commercial properties. The majority of buildings are well presented, many had been freshly painted prior to adjudication. It was surprising to note a few oversized signs remaining on buildings, no doubt these will all but have disappeared within a short time. The Garda station looked particularly well as did the Country Kitchen and the Dunker Bar / Shortis. Other public buildings such as churches and schools were presented to their usual high standards.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping at the Listowel / Tralee junction looked especially well. The 'Welcome to Ballybunion' arranged in planting is an attractive feature. The many incidental spaces developed around the town for amenity was a surprise as it is a few years since this adjudicator has been in Ballybunion. The sculpture amenity development at the Garda station looked especially well. Caravan parks were well presented at their roadside boundary, particularly the Parklands Caravan Park, one closer to the town could be finished to its roadside boundary in a similar manner. Green open spaces around Ballybunion are being well maintained and make a strong visual impact, particularly at the playgrounds on the Cliff Road. As per last year, the Cliff Walk was presented to an excellent standard.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Beaches are being maintained to a very high standard. Both stretches were litter free during adjudication. It is a great achievement to have blue flag status. As noted above the green area at the children's playground is being nicely maintained. We note with interest your mention of bottle nosed dolphins on the beaches, none of course were noted on adjudication day, perhaps you could send in details for next year's adjudication. The Casheen River carpark and wildlife viewing area is a valuable amenity.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was good overall on adjudication. Some litter bins, however, need to be

refurbished, particularly those on the Casheen Road. Some litter was noted on the steep road leading to the Ladies Beach. We wish you well in your request to have a litter warden and extra street cleaning from Kerry County Council.

TIDINESS

No doubt remaining undeveloped, derelict sites and buildings in the town will be developed before too long, given the demand for properties. Some back areas, particularly around the Community Hall, were untidy and need more attention, particularly to the rear gates, walls and façades of buildings. Some stretches of fencing are in need of refurbishment along the golf course roadside perimeter. The Ahafona junction still contains an element of untidiness but this is not serious and is more than balanced by amenity developments.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The colour scheme of houses marking the entrance from the Asdee Road is visually pleasing. The development of the new luxury apartments at Ocean View will enhance this area of the town and eliminate a derelict site. Holiday home developments look well and grassed areas at residential estates around the town are being generally well maintained. A good overall presentation under this heading.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The wirescape free town centre with attractive lampstandards are a positive visual feature of Ballybunion. Car parking is well organised at various locations around the town, although one small car parking area on the Cliff Road was badly potholed. Street signage is generally well presented. It is good to note the toilet facility on the Ladies Beach is wheelchair accessible, well done.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Ballybunion is one of a town with a lot to offer the visitor and the resident and a town that is developing in a delightful way. We look forward to many repeat visits.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (06/08/02)

Second adjudication took place in the busiest time of the season. With the stress of the large number of visitors the litter situation was not as favourable as described above at first adjudication. Litter was present throughout the town particularly on pavements and towards the approach to the beaches. There has been a steady improvement in the standards of presentation of business premises over the years, but there is still a lot of work to be done with refurbishment. There are many new residents in Ballybunion and the standard of house painting is striking. The grounds of the church and adjacent site are very dreary and some attempt at tree planting of wind and sea salt resistant trees

would be good – Pinus radiata, Sycamores for example. There are beautiful displays of Hydrangeas on approach to the town. Grass verges and areas between many of the houses near the large carpark by the children's playground are untidy and a major impetus is needed to upgrade these areas. The white washed wall approaching the beach needs either to be repainted or to have the paint removed entirely. The cliff walk is a lovely asset and the beaches are beautiful. The site between the two beaches with concrete rubble hopefully will be resolved soon. Traffic caused by so much on street parking causes a lot of clutter in the town – while at the same time the large carparks are almost empty. Encouragement to use the carparks would be welcome.