

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **BALLYHEIGUE**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	27	27
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	208	206

Ballyheigue, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Ballyheigue is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission and details of your work programme. We note that work is in progress on the sewerage scheme and that this development is in its infancy. We appreciate that it will be difficult for Ballyheigue to make progress in the competition during construction work and hope that standards achieved to date will be maintained. We wish the committee every success in the implementation of the planned work programme.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The majority of buildings are very well presented and, in particular, the pharmacy, i.e. Shiopa Poitigear, was very much admired. It was surprising to see the oversized 'Coca Cola' sign still in place on one building. The funfair was in town on the day of adjudication and there were lots of people enjoying the rare (this year) July sunshine. Some consideration might be given to the relocation of the car park at the Castle entrance to another more appropriate venue and redeveloping this part of the village centre for visual amenity as it is an important focal point in Ballyheigue. The window apertures in the entrance to the Castle Golf Club were broken and should be refurbished. We wish you well in your plans to light up the promenade and we look forward to experiencing this.

LANDSCAPING

Expansive areas of green open space were being well maintained and were admired, however one was littered during adjudication. Caravan parks were quite well presented. Every opportunity should be taken to extend your tree and shrub planting programme. Trees might be planted to good effect behind the roadside field boundary on the left hand side of the road on entering the village from the Ardfert road in order to screen an agricultural holding here.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The beach looked breathtaking against the backdrop of mountains and was impeccable in its presentation, although quite a number of people were enjoying this amenity. Has there been a species count completed for the bird sanctuary? If so, we would like details as this kind of initiative can earn you additional marks.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control appears to have lapsed somewhat since last year. Litter was noted on the main street and appears to be concentrated around the Huckleberrys shop. Litter was noted

at other areas of the town also. If this situation is allowed to continue, you will soon experience a loss of marks under this heading.

TIDINESS

A number of undeveloped and derelict sites and back and side areas were noted at various locations around the village. It is anticipated that building materials will be featured at various locations around the town and that there will not be major progress made under this heading until the sewerage scheme has been completed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The row of roadside boundary walls to residential properties on the right hand side of the road approaching from the Ardferf entrance need to be cleaned and / or painted. These are an important visual element in the townscape and should be maintained at the highest standard. The green open space beside Marion Park was under development during adjudication. The housing development behind Marion Park featured quite an amount of litter. The holiday village is quite well presented, however weed growth was noted along kerbs at several locations.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces are quite good. Roadside verges along the Ardferf entrance were rough in appearance, it is anticipated that no improvements will be made in this respect until the completion of the sewerage scheme. Hopefully all the service cables will be ducted in order to eliminate the visually obtrusive wirescape from the village centre.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The general impression of Ballyheigue is excellent, the village has magnificent beaches and pleasant walks and is always a pleasure to visit for work or pleasure. Thank you for your continued participation and try to keep Ballyheigue to as high a standard as possible during the development of the new sewerage scheme.