

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballybunion**

Ref: **495**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **228**

Category: **C**

Date: **23/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	40
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	27
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>227</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballybunion is a seaside resort where families go to relax and enjoy themselves and golfers go to pit themselves against the renowned Ballybunion links course. Both these activities are well catered for in this North Kerry town and those enjoying the magnificent beaches and the golf course were to be seen on a very pleasant June day when the Adjudicator visited Ballybunion. However, the town itself has some shortcomings in the areas of litter, car parking and road surfaces, which are mostly outside the remit of the Ballybunion Development Association. We noted that, as well as working towards making the environment better in Ballybunion, the Association also staffed the Tourist Information Point in the town in order to further promote the heritage of the area.

### The Built Environment:

Most business premises in Ballybunion were well presented, some having recently been refurbished. Cliff House Hotel was being painted on the day of the visit and the vibrant use of colour on the Golf Hotel was also noted. Church, Schools and Library were all neat and tidy and well maintained. However, the premises known as the West End in the main street needed refurbishment, as did a few other buildings throughout the town. The rich array of planted containers at the Harty/Costelloe Bar was admired. Visitor accommodation throughout the town and out by the River Cashen was well presented and welcoming in the main.

## **Landscaping:**

The various planted areas throughout the town were well maintained and colourful. The effort involved in achieving this result is appreciated. Strimming of grass verges was taking place during the visit and work was in progress on the building of a wall in the Cashen River car park. Here, the barrier was open and some people in jodhpurs with a horse box were allowing their horses to feed on the grass borders of the Car Park. The well maintained fencing by the Golf Club was noted. The statue of Bill Clinton at the entrance to the town is weathering with age. At the Golf Club, the green area by the cemetery was immaculate and the entrance and surrounds to the Golf Club itself were neat, tidy and weed-free.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The cliff walk nature trail is a wonderful amenity and was being enjoyed by many on the day of adjudication. Unfortunately, along this walk, there was some litter to be found and in the adjacent green area some heaps of planks etc. that looked as if they were being prepared for burning. These looked unsightly.

## **Litter Control:**

On the day of adjudication, litter control was good overall and the line of green/yellow litter bins at the beach was impressive - obviously the work undertaken by the Association is paying off. Of course, in high season there would be much more pressure in the litter area and no doubt the litter warden and extra street cleaners that you are seeking would be necessary to maintain the cleanliness of the resort to a high standard.

## **Tidiness:**

Some lanes and back areas in the town presented an untidy appearance. Also three car parks which appeared to be unused were unsightly. Use of these parks would take traffic off the congested main street and should be encouraged. Kerb-side weeds were to be seen on the road to the Golf Links. These should be removed and the area sprayed earlier in the season.

## **Residential Areas:**

Ninety percent of residential properties and Mobile Home Parks were maintained to a high standard. It should be remembered that surround walls must also be maintained to the same standard.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Here again, we would mention the lack of use of the Car Parks, which then deteriorate due to their non usage. There were a number of rough roadside verges throughout the town, including the slip road where they need to be defined more clearly. Sign-posting throughout the town is good and the attractive lamp standards were admired.

## **General Impression:**

Ballybunion deserves to reach its full potential and we look forward to seeing this happen in the years ahead.