

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyheigue**

Ref: **334**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **210**

Category: **C**

Date: **28/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	210	208

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submitting completed questionnaire, action plan and sketch map. The numbers involved in the committee is ideal for a village the size of Ballyheigue as more work tends to get done when you have a manageable committee. It is good to see that the Committee also has strong links with both the local authority and other agencies.

The Built Environment:

The Committee has undertaken a practical and achievable job of work under this category. Congratulations on your common sense approach. The buildings in the village looked very well with many having been refurbished and the contrast in paint colours is noteworthy. The road surfaces in and around the village are in a poor state although one has to appreciate that there is ongoing work being undertaken as part of the the sewerage scheme. New footpaths were noted in the centre of the village and when the road surfaces are improved, this combination will immensely transform the look of the village. The public buildings, like the Garda Station and the School, are in excellent condition. The Church and its grounds were very well presented as was Our Lady's Well. Reference was made in last year's report to the possible re-siting of the parking area near the Castle and Golf Club entrance to a less obtrusive location. I would very much concur with that suggestion. I feel that this particular area of the village tends to get too congested because of erratic parking by motorists. It would be a little unfair to highlight individual premises for commendation in the village as most residents are trying to contribute to the Tidy Towns effort by maintaining properties in an

acceptable fashion. Commercial property owners such as supermarkets, pubs and caravan park owners, for the most part, have played their part in presenting a good image.

Landscaping:

The standard under this section was good, but maybe a little more thought might be put in to the siting of effective and visual planting schemes. For instance, the Tralee Road entrance is quite bare even allowing for trees that seemed to have been planted some years back. It would be worthwhile if a landscaping arrangement could be put in place that would make this entrance to the village more appealing. This could be replicated at other areas in and around the village and assistance in terms of advice and possible resource support should be sought from Kerry County Council horticultural department. It would be ideal if the road surface improvement and planting suggestions could be done in tandem when all the excavation work presently underway is complete.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Suffice to say that Ballyheigue, with its natural sea hinterland, is a haven for many forms of wildlife and the committee should press on with any proposed projects that it might have earmarked. Seek out advice from a local environmental expert and involve the local schoolchildren in drawing up plans. Although the work plan refers to progress on a number of issues, the adjudicator did not note any reference to a specific project that would increase marks under this category. Consider something specific, no matter how small, for next year's competition.

Litter Control:

The litter control was acceptable when one considers that it was a weekend in a busy seaside village. Judging by last year's report this is an improvement. Some additional litter bins placed around areas of congregation, such as takeaways and shops, are required at this time of year.

Tidiness:

It was noted that there was an unacceptable level of weed growth at some kerbsides and at the base of walls and in back and side areas around the village. The Committee needs to create more awareness amongst locals for the need to keep such weed growth under control. Also, there was too much fly-posting in shop windows. As well as obscuring views, this is unsightly and unnecessary. Ballyheigue is not alone in having this problem and it is getting to the stage now where measures should be taken by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to discourage this practice. Directional signs within the village were clean and visible.

Residential Areas:

The village has no major housing development and residents of Ballyheigue keep their premises and adjoining areas in good condition. Marian Park, an established estate, is kept very well with stone flower beds dotted at appropriate spots on the green areas. There were some nice individual gardens to be seen and credit is due to the residents concerned. On the Mountway circular road there are nicely preserved cottage type residences. Overall the standard was quite good.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Entrance roads were a little disrupted because of ongoing work on the sewage scheme, so it would be a little unfair to be too judgemental. The Ballyduff entrance was least affected by this work and was well maintained with tidy verges. A few entrance signs were damaged, notably one on the Tralee entrance road. Link roads in and around the village were a little mixed, for instance the road down to the caravan park by the sportsfield was quite untidy and indeed the base of the sportsfield wall had too much weed growth.

General Impression:

The village has the potential to do well in the competition, but it needs the combined efforts of all local organisations, including individual residents, to bring this about. The committee is undertaking trojan work to both inform and encourage the local population and this will eventually improve the village's standing in the years ahead. Keep up the good work.