

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyvaughan**

Ref: **422**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **228**

Category: **A**

Date: **31/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	32	30
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	228	222

Overall Developmental Approach:

We note that there is a new Tidy Towns Committee in Ballyvaughan and wish you well in the future. Having spent a sunny June afternoon in Ballyvaughan one appreciates the rich canvas you have to work on. Thank you for completed entry form, map and CAAS report. As mentioned previously, although dated, this report still remains useful. However, for next year we would suggest that you undertake the production of a very simple updated 3/5 year plan and submit this together with a report on the years work 2004/2005. Thank you for the map showing new initiatives - however, a more comprehensive sketch map showing School, Churches, shop fronts that were nominated etc would be even more helpful.

The Built Environment:

Most business premises in Ballyvaughan were maintained to a high standard including Hylands Hotel, J.M. Mooney and Sons, O Lochlain's and O'Brien's Public Houses and the Enterprise Centre. However, the Chip Bar at the entrance to the latter needs to be painted (this was also mentioned in the CAAS report). As other buildings in Ballyvaughan are looking better, the need for refurbishment of this premises stands out more. The Church and the Club House at the Community Field were looking well. Also, the School was reasonably well presented but the boundary wall and hedging needed attention here. The many stone walls were noted, some with a little ivy encroaching - this is the time to remove same before it gets too strong a hold and takes over the wall. All the Rent an Irish Cottage properties were looking well on the day and the ones with the rambling roses around

the door were especially attractive. People were sitting out in Fountain Square which was looking well. However, the plastic SPAR sign at the shop adjacent to the Square is out of keeping with the village, as indeed is any plastic signage.

Landscaping:

The well maintained and colourful flower beds on the approach roads and in the town are a credit to the Committee. The hanging baskets were also noted - these were not quite so colourful and some lacked a profusion of flowers - the long dry spell had probably taken its toll. The landscaped area with seating near the sea front was also very well maintained and the garden opposite in the An Fear Gort tea shop was a delight. The grass verges on the road to the original RIC cottages was like velvet. The tree planting undertaken on the approaches was also noted and admired. Trees planted are always a legacy to the community. The landscaped picnic area on the Galway approach was being enjoyed by a coach load of visitors who were using their cameras to bring home memories of Ballyvaughan.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The bird hide project is worthwhile and, of course, all the planting undertaken throughout the village also contributes in this category. A number of large buddleia bushes were noted in the village and these are known to attract butterflies. Fuschia and ferns were noted growing naturally on approaches and on the road to the Community Field. This wild flower natural growth could be extended to include honeysuckle, fox gloves and white daisies. Some berried trees should also be planted for birds to feed on.

Litter Control:

There was virtually no litter to be seen during adjudication - your community pick up on the 15th June was obviously successful. We note that litter control is managed on a continuous basis and this is how it must happen.

The recycling bins are well situated, quite near the village but in an unobtrusive position.

Tidiness:

Just a few places needed attention under this heading. There were some heaps of gravel left in the Car Park by the Church and the open space next to J.M. Mooney and Sons was rather untidy. On the Kinvara approach a couple of houses had sprayed weeds outside their boundary wall without removing them first - this leaves a brown residue - weeds should be removed before spraying.

Kerbs were weed free throughout.

Residential Areas:

Within the village area private houses were very well maintained with some special gardens. Of course, just outside your boundary a new estate is being built and these new residents should also be encouraged to assist in your endeavours.

St. Joseph's Housing Estate was one of the best ever seen. Well maintained landscaping, no litter, no kerb side weeds, houses and surrounds ninety nine per cent well presented.

The residents here are to be congratulated. Perhaps the owner of the open area at the top of the estate where machinery is stored could be prevailed upon to use suitable fencing to cut this off from the estate.

The derelict house next to Hylands Hotel was a very visible eyesore. However, it did have attractive window boxes and looked as if it was being prepared for painting as mentioned. on your application form.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Except for the road down to the recycling bins, all roads in and around Ballyvaughan are in a poor condition. Hopefully, following the installation of the new sewerage scheme, as mentioned in your application, this will change. Directional signage throughout was well maintained. Inside the speed limits wall bases and banks must be well trimmed back.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Ballyvaughan again and join with many other visitors on the day such as cyclists, hikers and artists all enjoying what the village had to offer.

There is potential for Ballyvaughan to progress in the Competition and we wish you every success in the future.

Second Round Adjudication:

The Fountain Square forms a very good central focus in the village. The square is well presented and gives a very cheerful aspect. The street side buildings look well cared for as stated above with many very attractive shops and public houses. There is an overall atmosphere of good attention and interest in the village. The waterside walkway is attractive and the approach to the harbour forms a pleasant walk with good seating at intervals. Thatched buildings form an attractive feature of the village.