

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballybunion**

Ref: **48**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **229**

Category: **C**

Date: **22/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	39
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	32	30
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>228</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submission and sketch map. The details contained in the map and form do not tell us much about your work on hand and your hopes and plans for the future. We strongly recommend that you update any plan you may have for improvement and ensure it accompanies your entry. We feel seven members for a town as busy as Ballybunion is hardly sufficient. Do you have a FÁS scheme?. Like most other towns you are experiencing rapid changes from housing developments in particular. It is imperative that you become part of any developments and at least have an advisory role in their progress. Your task is challenging as the town's population is boosted for just three or four months of the year and yet maintenance must be applied all year round.

### The Built Environment:

The town is endowed with many fine and attractive buildings, many with features of great interest. The main street is still you biggest asset and the area demanding most attention. We regret to observe that many buildings with traditional features are now yielding to modern materials and design, not conducive with the town's character. We were impressed with Harry Costelloe's and Courtney's, together with The Olde Attic. Public buildings looked well and the library is now housed in a former church. The brown finger post signs for the library are good but the sign at the building is inappropriate and not very legible from passing traffic on this busy corner. The Garda Station dominates the approach from Listowel and was well presented. In general buildings are well presented, but you still have many pockets of dereliction and many unoccupied premises. The new

SuperValu supermarket is now a dominant feature of the town. We also note that more shops here are coming on stream and we hope the signage will be appropriate.

### **Landscaping:**

We acknowledge the many displays of flowers in and around the town and in particular the display at Paudie's Supermarket. The landscaping and mural at the Listowel approach is attractive. Some of the landscaping of previous years is now in need of attention and we suggest you tend to these before embarking on new developments. We await with interest the development of the National Traditional Theatre of Ireland. The Green Valley grassed area is superb and complements the golf links. Many individuals have worked hard on providing tubs, window boxes and hanging baskets, especially on the main street. The car park at SuperValu is by far the best in town. Are there any plans to landscape and plant it?.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The display boards erected by Kerry Co. Council are informative and offer visitors an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the wildlife of the area. You have ample opportunity to promote wildlife and raise your marks in this section. The cliff walk and developed paths are good and provide a much sought after service. Wildflowers are also flourishing in this area. Caravan parks are well presented and the entrance to Green Valley is appealing.

### **Litter Control:**

The main street was well controlled on adjudication day and we commend the efforts to control this area. Some small amounts of litter could be seen in some of the car parks but in fairness nothing serious. The litter bin at the entrance to Marconi Drive has been damaged. You have raised your marks in this section.

### **Tidiness:**

Because of the many premises that are derelict or unoccupied, together with poorly presented open space and other areas awaiting development, a lot of untidiness is created. We appreciate that all of this is beyond the control of a tidy towns committee but we urge you to use what every influence you have with the authorities who have special powers to take action against derelict sites. Some very large open spaces are undeveloped and very untidy.

### **Residential Areas:**

At Bianconi Drive a lot of houses have poorly presented boundary walls needing painting. You should consider a local competition for the housing estates as this has been found very successful in other towns. New housing estates offer you opportunity to recruit new members and some are only waiting to be asked. There is a welcome housing development on the approach from St. Joseph's School. The school's landscaping needs attention. All approach roads show wonderful individual effort and many have attractive gardens with great colour. Developers should be encouraged to finish well with appropriate landscaping.

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

Standard of roads in and around the town is very good with well defined non parking and parking areas well laid out. Main street in particular is good and footpaths are of equal standard. You have problems with some side streets: e.g., the road opposite the church has very poor surface needing upgrading. Some side lanes are very untidy and these areas now form a core part of the competition. Like many towns there is a weakness in street and housing estate signage. You should look at your neighbours in Listowel for a good example of signage and also local directional signs.

**General Impression:**

Ballybunion looked well on adjudication day and some fine commercial developments are adding to the town's importance. We feel you are not getting the backing of the community sufficiently to enable the town to reach its potential. You need to revisit the planning stage and draw up short and long term strategy for overall improvements. This is best done on a partnership basis, with all the agencies cooperating and full backing from the community. Good luck for 2005.