

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyheigue**

Ref: **262**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **210**

Category: **C**

Date: **22/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	34
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	210	210

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submission and copy of your plan for the next three years. You have a very large area to cover and the town stretching from the church to the Tralee road is quite extensive. Your challenge is compounded by the great number of holiday homes and temporary accommodation units in the area. New developments are not escaping Ballyheigue no more than any other centre and all of these have implications for the future. You need to upgrade many of the existing developments before embarking on new ones. You mention the generosity of the business people, which is commendable.

The Built Environment:

Public buildings were well presented and the hotel is quite colourful and freshly painted. The church could be much improved if freshly painted on this important approach. The school and Garda station mentioned last year are well kept. We note that Flahives is undergoing refurbishment and will no doubt be finished before this report appears. We liked the Pharmacy and An Post.

Landscaping:

We acknowledge the display of flowers and urge you to continue with this policy. You have numerous open spaces, approach roads and side areas suitable for flower displays. You should

concentrate on the main street and work out towards the approach roads. We suggest you embark on a tree planting blitz for the main street: we only saw one tree in all of this area. This is a policy being adopted by many towns throughout the country with beneficial effect. You should seek a meeting with the Kerry Co. Council and get the backing of the commercial community for this work. You should at the same time try and erect some ornamental lighting in the main street, and introduce some seating and create an atmosphere of friendliness. Currently, the car is dominating your lovely street and this needs to change as you have ample car parking space adjacent to the street. We suggest some of your committee members should travel to Portmagee and witness first hand the progress in that area, with similar characteristics as yourselves.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done on your work in this area. When you have completed your research you should consider extending the policy of display boards, similar to the one at the car park, which is very informative and well designe

Litter Control:

Your have pockets of litter at many of the car parking areas: e.g., the entrance of Casey's caravan park, the grotto. We commend you on the apparent plentiful amount of litter bins at the beach car park area and throughout the town.

Tidiness:

You have serious problems with derelict buildings, unoccupied houses, uncared for open spaces and many undeveloped sites. Indeed many of those mentioned in last years report have not changed in appearance. We appreciate the problems associated with derelict sites but would point out that Kerry Co. Council have special powers in this respect. Poor boundary walls, rusty farm gates, overgrown approaches, and premises needing painting all combine to give an image of untidiness. Of course it also lessens the positive effect of premises presented to a high standard. We found the grotto disappointing and very untidy, with a good deal of weed growth. While the immediate area around the grotto is good the car parking area is poor and the entrance to here is sub-standard.

Residential Areas:

Marian Terrace is extensive and has some very good individual effort. However, we suspect the collective effort here is poor and we also notice evidence of former efforts now declining: e.g., the old boats which were once filled with flowers. Could we impress upon you the importance of having all estates identified by appropriate bilingual signs: it is quite frustrating for the adjudicator but more importantly identifying housing terraces, estates etc helps to give communities a sense of place. We certainly support this in advance of erecting signs for townlands.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The new completed sewage scheme has left you with improved treatment of the environment and also give you fresh road structure. Main street is good and the Tralee approach is excellent. We notice a good deal of untidy rear and side premises visible from the road. We would point out that these areas now form part of the core adjudication process. The Community Centre is well presented and providing a valuable service. The recycling facility is well presented and not subject to abuse. The Donal B. Lenane monument needs refurbishment and the flag poles need painting or replacement with non rusting metal.

General Impression:

The village infrastructure has improved and services in the area are good. Your task now is to further improve the environment and get the backing of the community and relevant agencies in

your endeavours. Your task is not a small one and needs good direction and commitment. For a committee only in existence for two years you have done well. We hope you will adhere to your plans and seek advice where necessary. The natural landscape of Ballyheigue will always attract visitors and complementing this natural landscape with appropriate developments is your challenge. We wish you well.