

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyvaughan**

Ref: **383**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **232**

Category: **A**

Date: **09/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	24
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	15	16
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	232	228

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballyvaughan is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Committee. Thank you for the CAAS report, prepared for Clare County Council in 1997. We again ask you to prepare a one page development plan focusing on your aims for the village for the next three-five years. Thank you also for the map which was helpful on inspection day.

The Built Environment:

The Church and grounds were well presented, as was the Old School House, Garda Station and the Community clubhouse and playing fields. Many of the business premises were admired - Monks; An Féar Gorta; Hyland's; O'Brien's; Soda Parlour; Lillimar; Green's and O Loclairn's, although the whiskey sign over the door is very weatherstained. Fountain Square, with its hard landscaping, Visitor's Map, looked very well. The RIC properties were looking well and one was being re-thatched. And the refurbishment of many of the derelict buildings was well under way, as was construction on the new Slip Way. You might consider constructing a pavement linking the village to the old pier/new Slip Way. The artwork and perspex on the Map by Hyland's needs attention. Some of the buildings in the Enterprise Centre need painting and weeds removed from the gutters, and the entrance is cluttered with all sorts of signage. The Chip Bar, as mentioned last year, needs painting, as does the National School.

Landscaping:

The floral displays throughout the village were admired, including by the fountain, bird watch, church and entrance to St. Joseph's. Many of the properties had beautiful gardens/floral displays - An Féar Gorta; the dwelling beside the Old School House; O'Brien's; Ballyvaughan Lodge (sign weather stained), to name but a few. The new broad leafed trees planted on the Coast Road were well staked with proper tree ties, as were the replacement trees on the Galway Road. The stone picnic tables/benches and new seating was much admired. Well done. Some of the trees planted on the green area in the St. Joseph's Estate are in poor condition and the small saplings should be removed.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Ballyvaughan nestles beside one of the country's most wonderful natural amenities - The Burren. The Wildbird Display Board, painted by local artist Phil Brennan, at the entrance to the Bird Watch was much admired, and while viewing the area a Heron came into land. You might consider bridging the gap between the paths from the parking area to the bird watch area.

Litter Control:

Again this year, there was very little litter seen, with the exception of a sprinkling outside The Tea Junction, by the picnic area at Spar - the metal gate beside it is also a litter trap.

Tidiness:

On the sea front area there are a few sites that warrant attention: the old Doolin Ferry is unsightly; water fountain near Monk's untidy; Ballycahill Lodge and garden very untidy; the gardens of the semi detached white bungalows with red paintwork are unkempt, and the kerbs by green area were weedy, and the walls/site opposite needs attention. The rusting container in the recessed area by the bring bank should be removed, the area concreted and the receptacles repositioned there. The rusting wreckage/old pallets used as barriers in the fields by the National School are also unsightly.

Residential Areas:

The village has some very handsome private dwellings; holiday home complexes, and again the houses in the St. Joseph's Estate were well presented. The new development on the Galway Road is almost complete and it is hoped that the developer will finish the project to a high standard, including the roads, pavements and landscaping the green area out front.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The sign on the approach road from Corofin is obscured by the hedgerow, and perhaps the signs on the Coast Road could be moved beyond your new picnic/tree planting area. The new stone sign for Cappanawalla was admired. There are a myriad of directional signs in the centre of the village which must confuse visitors. Road surfaces generally were poor, and particularly bad on the roads up to the Ballyvaughan Holiday Homes area and on the road behind the Enterprise centre. The road/verges should improve on the road to the Old Pier when the Slip Way project is completed.

General Impression:

Ballyvaughan, an old seaside village on the shores of Galway Bay, is a haven for visitors with a wide range of interests including deep sea angling; Burren walking; botany; painting (Burren College of Art on your doorstep), to mention but a few. We compliment you on your new developments and wish you well for the future.

Second Round Adjudication:

Ballyvaughan has now reached the higher rating in the competition, and is therefore accorded a second adjudication. Congratulations to all those in the neighbourhood who have worked to make this possible. It is several years since this adjudicator visited Ballyvaughan and changes for the better were visible on all sides. The cluster of Rent-an-Irish cottages, which, at that time, were somewhat run down, are now brightly painted with judiciously selected planting. The waterworks monument, then the centrepiece of an unsightly corner, is now part of a brightly planted and painted feature. New terrace-type houses next to Hyland's Hotel fit well into the traditional streetscape while retaining a crisp modern look. The signage at the Enterprise Centre was unattractive and untidy. Weeds had grown up through the cobbles of the fountain near Monk's by mid-August – a difficult task to remove, but they should be prevented from growing in the first place by the application of an environmentally friendly poison very early in the year. New trees were favourably noted at both ends of the village. The herbaceous borders and shrubbery at the back of An Féar Gorta deserves very honourable mention and demonstrates how the shelter of high walls allows unexpected species to flourish in this otherwise exposed locality. The CAAS Report of eight years ago is still a useful work of reference. The first adjudicator had the unenviable task of mentioning some areas of neglect and untidiness; the committee would do well to consider her remarks, for it is in the addition of small details which can bring a town up or down the marking scale. The committee should use its influence so that further new estates are situated within the confines of the village to avoid the suburban spread which is beginning to become apparent and which ultimately will detract from the very quality that Ballyvaughan offers. You will find that marks will be harder to come by now that you are in the higher league of towns and villages. It is hoped that you will persevere, for Ballyvaughan at present is the kind of well-managed village that we can show off to our visitors with considerable pride.