

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyheigue**

Ref: **211**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **212**

Category: **C**

Date: **18/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	35
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	26	27
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>210</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The information submitted with the entry form was very helpful. Prioritising the various works to be done in the plan is a good idea and the associated costs are included. Good progress is being made – this must be viewed over a few years, as understandably it is difficult to meet all the challenges in one or two years. The committee of 8 appears to be determined and hard working and with this persistence and determination much will be achieved. Getting the cooperation of people to ensure that efforts coincide with the planned progress can be difficult and frustrating.

### The Built Environment:

Painting and presentation of buildings is the key to having buildings looking well. In a seaside village the need for painting is more frequent. Looking back towards the housing from the beach carpark there is a very good fresh look generally. Unfortunately the most prominent wall at the carpark (roadside wall) needs painting. The Community Centre and surrounding residential buildings appear crisp. The White Sands Hotel looks very well. A major building development is under way behind Centra and hopefully this will merge well with the existing buildings. In the Main Street there is a good standard of building presentation with many looking fresh and well painted. The Flahives building alteration has been completed well. At the top of the street there is a fine stone revealed building with red framed windows – while this looks well the roadside wall adjacent to it is unsightly and needs urgent painting. The stonewall along the Tralee road looks very well and the addition of the containers gives it a nice sparkle. The Church – a long way from the town would benefit from

decoration. Derelict buildings and those needing attention are no doubt well known and mention is not required except to hope progress can be made.

### **Landscaping:**

The picnic areas to each side of the approach to the beach car park look well. The seating and planted containers and the large stones all add to the good appearance. Along the Coast road there are a number of well-tended gardens, which add to the landscaped effect of the town. The treatment of the landscape at Marian park is good with well-tended grassed area. The range of plants that seem to grow successfully in this area is limited. Hydrangeas, Escallonia, Fuchsia, Hebes and Olearias all seem winners. The entrance to the Golf Course with the rolling lawns framed by the elaborate arch is attractive. Container planting in places through the town adds good seasonal colour.

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

The coastline offers great opportunity for wild life observation; the display boards are a very appropriate way of conveying the information about the wild life in the area. A publication about Ballyheigue at some stage could be made with a section on the wild life of the area.

### **Litter Control:**

Some litter was noted in the area of the picnic tables in the beach approach. Also the bin outside the public toilets had been spilled – perhaps by birds. If birds are causing this problem a system to prevent access by birds is needed. Also along the pedestrian way to Hill Crest and at the bottom of Hillcrest road litter was noted. Organisation of litter control is not easy particularly in a town, which is visited by many on fine days in the summer.

### **Tidiness:**

Good progress is being made in this regard. There are some difficulties to be overcome – the state of some derelict buildings being a prominent one. Also the traffic arrangements in the main street are most unsatisfactory leading to clutter and untidiness - no parking at all should be allowed at the seaward end. Parking on one side only in other areas and better traffic control in general. Building works in the town behind Centra and the footpath work along the Main Street both are causing temporary untidiness.

### **Residential Areas:**

The many holiday homes in and around the town present difficulties of maintenance sometimes. The Marian Park is well tended in so far as it can be. The grassed areas are maintained well. Some more imaginative planting could be done. There is a very good standard of painting décor with most houses. Other residential houses along the coast road, in the areas of Hill Crest and on the approach roads, generally look well with few exceptions. These make a positive contribution to the entire town.

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

The road surfaces appear well except where work is proceeding on the Main street and causing disruption to the paths. The pedestrian way from the golf course entrance to Hillcrest could do with resurfacing and cleaning. As stated above, the traffic and permitted parking on the roads in the Main Street is presenting more problems than the actual roads themselves.

### **General Impression:**

Ballyheigue is a very attractive seaside town with many good features. Like many such towns and villages – developments have occurred piecemeal and no great planning was involved. The legacy of this now has to be dealt with in the best way possible.