

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyvaughan** Ref: **60**
County: **Clare** Mark: **244**
Category: **A** Date(s): **02/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	23
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	244

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the very comprehensive application form, work update and excellent indexed sketch map. The interaction with the Local Authority and more importantly all sectors of the local community is paying dividends as the Village was in splendid condition overall even on a busy weekend Sunday.

The Built Environment:

The main observation here is the efforts to retain or replicate the original features of existing buildings and this has led to a well-defined streetscape.

The road surfaces and the footpaths are in good condition and this also helps to give the village a well maintained look.

The treatment of derelict sites and ongoing building works is in building work is taking place on the former conspicuous messy site across from the Xpress Service Station.

The following deserve mention for the manner of presentation:

Hylands, who have replicated a more traditional shop front sign, OLochlainn, very tasteful and straightforward refurbishment, The Soda Parlour except for the two phone boxes directly in front which obscure the view, JM Mooney and Sons, The Burren Pharmacy and of course a number of extremely well restored and presented private residences.

The main negative comment is related to signage and its inappropriate location and amount of same. How can up to 16 signs be allowed, as is the case at the Tea Junction, on or near one pole? No further comment needed.

The Public buildings The Church, The Old School House, present National School and the Garda Station were all well presented and managed.

The mini Shannon Development business centre was well maintained but here there were also too many inappropriately placed signs on view.

Landscaping:

The standard in the landscaping section was on par with what one expects from Ballyvaughan. Your idea to plant perennials in future is a good idea as they require a little less toil.

The colour factor was very noticeable within the village and especially on the outskirts.

The new stone beds at entry points had an eclectic mixture of plants which were very colourful and eye catching.

The treatment of young trees that have been planted over the last two years is very good, a case and point is the coast road where the trees have been given every opportunity to progress with proper protective methods employed.

The planting at the stonewall at the Service Station on the Lisdoonvarna Road is unusual and very much in keeping with what is in place the core of the village.

There are many private gardens of superior quality, particular at O Donohue's Tea Rooms and a number of cottage gardens adjacent to it.

Well done to all who have contributed to making the village so colourful on the day.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The amenity walk area from the National School/GAA Grounds area to Newtown was observed but the adjudicator did not have time and to some extent the energy on a very hot day to traverse this.

The Bird Hide and picnic area, with nice simple wooden sign, offers one of the many excellent wildlife habitats to be seen in the area.

The hide does need a re coating of camouflage green.

Keep up the process of negotiation with landowners to allow further access to various locations of wild life habitats.

Litter Control:

On a very busy day it was very noticeable that there was little or no litter noticeable and I did not see a Council bin in sight.

I have since found out that the Committee has decided to spread the gospel of "one looks after own litter and the message to everyone is "take it with you".

I am beginning to believe that this is a very good idea as sometimes bins can be a haven for extra litter as has been seen in many places to date.

Waste Minimisation:

The Committee as part of plan for next year should try and take a more proactive role in the promoting the message of better waste management.

Refer to the Race Against Waste publication included with the original application package for ideas on initiatives that would suit your community.

Tidiness:

Kerbsides are cleaned on a regular basis judging by the work being undertaken by one gentleman on this particular Sunday no less.

In some outlying or link roads there is some dead grass verges that are a little unsightly and the practice of weed killing and letting verges to decay is to be discouraged.

There were on or two back areas that need to be tidied up and the rusty van near unoccupied house on the School Road should be removed, as it is an eye sore.

Residential Areas:

The St Joeph's Road Housing Development, which has been well established in Ballyvaughan, was in tiptop condition with new stone identification sign and appropriately placed planters in the green area. The recently planted saplings are healthy and have been allowed to develop so well done to all and sundry.

The new and existing developments in and on the periphery of the village were for the most part very well presented. When completed the newer schemes will enhance Ballyvaughan rather than take away from it.

The Rent an Irish Cottage scheme, long established, was in good condition but maybe a more in keeping sign could replace the existing plastic type.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Ballyvaughan has some very fine vista as one approaches particularly from the Fanore Coast Road and the Kinvara side.

Nice welcome signs and stone beds as well as a well-defined picnic area on the Fanore side exploit the entries to the Village.

A number of link roads and back areas were viewed and were all up to an acceptable standard of presentation.

The signage in the Village has been referred to already but it has been surpassed on the Corofin/Lisdoonvarna/Ballyvaughan Junction where 23 signs were observed at that particular point. Surely planning has not been allowed for this type of indiscriminate placement of signs

General Impression:

Ballyvaughan is a haven for transient and seasonal visitors and one can see the attractions.

There are a number of exclusive new developments being under taken that are geared to an up market clientele. This is an economic plus for the Village but it is hoped that it will always retain its identity as seaside village with a strong maritime tradition.

You are wished well in the future.