

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Ballyvaughan** Ref: **60**  
County: **Clare** Mark: **276**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **21/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	21
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>276</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you Ballyvaughan TidyTowns Committee for your entry on behalf of Ballyvaughan village to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Welcome.

Thanks to your Committee of five people involved in TidyTowns activities in Ballyvaughan. You are all obviously dedicated community people who take the time and effort to attend your monthly meetings in addition to other TidyTowns activities. Your Committee is doing so very worthwhile work for Ballyvaughan, a village with a population of less than 200 people.

Thanks also for the submission including; Village Street map, and summary three-year plan for Ballyvaughan TidyTowns and proposed plan for 2008.

Well done on the ongoing contact with the national school and well done to the school on their involvement in recycling.

The work of local people, residents, business people, schoolchildren and others is to be praised. Well done on your energy and commitment.

As part of the three-year plan and to help the town compare its performance in TidyTowns competitions a recommendation to consider is a visit to other towns that are high performers in the 2007 and 2008 national competition. A further recommendation is to attempt to increase the number of people willing to serve on the TidyTowns Committee. Your present Committee of five would benefit by the introduction of new members to help spread the workload and take on additional duties.

I wish you all the best with your Tidy Town activities into the future.

### **The Built Environment:**

One of the challenges facing seaside villages like Ballyvaughan is to manage ongoing change for the benefit of the residents and visitors alike. This change involves many organisations including the statutory and voluntary bodies. This is not an easy task. To date the village seems to be coping well in its development of residential areas, commercial and leisure developments. The objective is to retain a healthy balance between developments that makes Ballyvaughan so wonderful as a place to live, work and spend leisure time.

Overall the village looked so peaceful, restful and welcoming on the day of my visit. The first building we met on the road from Lisdoonvarna was the Catholic Church on one side and the Primary Care Medical Centre across the other side. The contrast between the 1858 building of the Church to the present day Medical Centre emphasises how the village of Ballyvaughan has changed over the many decades. Both looked in excellent condition with appropriate landscaping.

Other buildings that impressed me on my visit included: Hyland's Burren Hotel; the Rent-an-Irish Cottage holiday development; O'Loclainn Pub; Aras an Coastguard 1790-1860 or the Tea Rooms 1981; Monks Restaurant; An Fulacht Fia Restaurant; Quinns, The Tea Junction; Fiddler's Siopa Ceoil; Lillimar; the Burren Coast Hotel and Holiday Village; Hazelwood Restaurant; The Soda Parlour; Dolman Holiday Village; Ballyvaughan Lodge B&B; the Community Centre of 1992, formally the old national school of 1851; Burren Adventures Dive Centre and Watersports Shop. Well done to all.

There are some magnificent individual houses and excellent residential and holiday estates throughout Ballyvaughan. In addition the many wonderful B&Bs provide an excellent service and the display of colour around these houses is to be admired. Many of the townhouses look well with bright colours on the front walls. Well done. The majestic Burren overlooked all and its beauty is mirrored in the Atlantic.

### **Landscaping:**

Well done on the landscaping at the individual houses and B&Bs on the outskirts of and in the town and at the residential estate, this is of a high standard. The landscaping on the Coast road approach road is impressive.

There is a wonderful display of colour from the combination of planted hanging baskets and the individual flower and shrub beds in the village. The streetscape was excellent.

There are many premises with nice displays of flowers outside, there is a lovely integration of the indigenous stonewalls into the houses and premises of Ballyvaughan.

The seated area landscaping at the Coast Road Car Park is of great benefit. The Beehive structures work well. Also there is some exceptional landscaping and colour at premises of An Fulacht Fia.

Well done to all involved in the various locations for good landscaping in their individual premises.

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

There are some excellent Wildlife Interpretative Signs and Display Panels in the village. The Burren Way and the Wildbirds Display Panels are excellent. The Picnic area and Bird Hide on the Coast Road are good features.

The Pier area, opened in 2005, looked clean and tidy. As mentioned in your submission the new slipway has opened up opportunities for water based activities for adults and children alike. In addition the new walking club will benefit from the wonderful network of green roads and the Burren way.

### **Litter Control:**

Ballyvaughan village and surrounds were mainly clear of litter on the day of my visit. Well done on the involvement with the Schools on anti-litter campaigns, including the Beach clean up. The energy and commitment of the parents, teachers, staff and pupils involved is to be applauded and praised. Well done on your good work. The village main streets looked mainly litter free. The strategy of getting people to bring their litter home could be considered risky but it seems to work. But a few more LitterBins would be recommended.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The purpose of this category is to encourage TidyTowns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Projects could include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean-up events.

The further involvement of the school in these waste minimisation activities is to be congratulated.

The four Recycling bins at the Pier area are in a tidy state.

### **Tidiness:**

In general, Ballyvaughan residential areas deserve great credit for their own areas of responsibility and for maintaining a tidy image for Ballyvaughan. The approach road from Lisdoonvarna needed some tidying up in relation to grassed areas, which take from the quality of the indigenous stone walls.

There was one derelict building on the Pier area, which needs attention.

To me the issue of the signposts in the village centre is one of neatness. Once the signposts are clean and well maintained they fit the environment as a well-known landmark. Ballyvaughan looked tidy on the day of my visit.

### **Residential Areas:**

Most private residences and the holiday villages throughout Ballyvaughan are in a very good condition, well presented houses and lovely landscaping and gardens. The B&Bs are also in excellent condition

Many of the individual houses and the B&Bs on the outskirts of the village are top quality with some lovely gardens.

Congratulations to all concerned on the upkeep of their residential areas. The older townhouses help retain the small town character and seaside charm of Ballyvaughan.

Well done to all residents for the great effort.

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

The village was in general clean and tidy with some nice grassed landscaping, good tree planting, some excellent display of planted hanging baskets in full bloom, which all combine to create a lovely atmosphere in the village area. The approach road from Lisdoonvarna needs attention. The Failte to Ballyvaughan bilingual stone signs are a nice feature. The road surface at the entrances to Ballyvaughan should be better.

One suggested area of improvement for discussion and consideration in the medium to longer term is the removal of overhead wires from streets. Also on some commercial premises in the main street there is a need to clean the gutters on the two storey buildings.

### **General Impression:**

Congratulations to Ballyvaughan on your 2008 entry to TidyTowns. Credit to your Committee and your partner organisations for your efforts on behalf of the village. Much excellent work is ongoing in the village. Ballyvaughan is blessed with its wonderful natural and built environment. The Burren area is a wonderful natural amenity loved by residents and visitors alike.

I look forward to further visits to your lovely seaside village.