

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyvaughan** Ref: **60**
County: **Clare** Mark: **281**
Category: **A** Date(s): **08/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	39
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	32
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	21
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	281

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Ballyvaughan to the 2009 Tidy towns Competition. Thank you for your detailed entry form and map which was excellent and most accurate. This adjudicator has known Ballyvaughan for about forty years and was most impressed with how this attractive village has progressed over the past few years. Thank you for The Burren in Bloom brochure which is most interesting as was the Spring Newsletter. It was good to read that you receive support from Clare County Council but what about LEADER? You are involved with the Green School Programme and this is most important. You did not enclose a copy of your 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for Ballyvaughan and perhaps you would let us have a copy for next year. This should guide your work year by year under each adjudication category for the period 2010 to 2012.

The Built Environment:

The two derelict properties that are for Sale were both examined and hopefully there will be progress here. A derelict property was also noted near the Pier beyond the Bring Centre and the adjudicator wonders what the situation is on that? The removal of the Telephone Boxes seems to have made a difference to the pavements. It was great to see a new use for the old building now occupied by the Credit Union and this looked very smart on adjudication day. The new wall in front of the School was admired and this has certainly improved the presentation here. The Burren Coast Hotel impressed this adjudicator. The combination of various design concepts used here works well and the building blends well into the built environment of Ballyvaughan. The presentation of Monks is really outstanding. The graphics, colours and the creative use of heavy rope all combine so well together. The O'Lochlain is another of a number of premises in Ballyvaughan that stands out. In this case the very good signage and window boxes add much to the impact of this building. The landscaping at the Catholic Church was admired though the railings will need to be painted for next year. An excellent colour scheme provides the setting for Logues Lodge where the graphics are really good. More

modern graphics across the road at The Soda Parlor are equally impressive. The hanging sign here is excellent. To the side of SPAR the Mural is most eye catching though there appeared to be some graffiti along the bottom?

Landscaping:

Outside Ballyvaughan Lodge the replacement of edging stones with wooden posts has been examined and is an improvement as is the landscaping and tree planting in the laneway near Logues. Near the Fountain on the coast road approach an open space on the right has a number of flower barrels. These needed to be treated. The Beehives had not been seen before by this adjudicator and the area is attractive though the grass needed to be cut. The landscaping at the Fountain combining hard and soft landscaping is most successful. Throughout Ballyvaughan the generous use of hanging baskets, flower tubs and window boxes was examined and just the right quantity of this landscaping has been used. This is not an easy balance to find.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Congratulations on getting three new walks underway with more planned. The Coast road Bird Hide is an unusual facility to find in a small village but most interesting. Have you considered a wildlife survey of the Ballyvaughan area as there are so many possibilities here?

Litter Control:

The Beach and roadside clean up is a great idea and an opportunity for many to get involved. Your weekly litter pick ups are obviously successful as litter control generally was good in Ballyvaughan. There were a few minor problem areas such as the Bring Centre where a few pieces of litter were noted. The Church car park had some littering and just a little was noted along Main Street. The Bring Centre itself was well presented but the official signage was missing. A concrete plinth is suggested here.

Waste Minimisation:

The new Clothing Bank is welcomed. Have you examined possibilities for waste reduction in Ballyvaughan? This category is also about recycling possibilities in the village.

Tidiness:

Ballyvaughan is a tidy village and your problems in regard to signage have been noted and understood. Signage clutter was seen at the village sign on the Galway approach. However, terrible signage clutter is present in the centre of the village near the Coast Road junction. About 20 signs were counted here with many different designs. Can you discuss this urgently with the Local Engineer and see if rationalisation is possible? The clutter here probably delays visitor traffic at this busy junction. Some of the timber flower tubs in the village need to be treated.

Residential Areas:

Residential areas impressed in Ballyvaughan as did the new trees along St. Joseph's Road. However some of the grass here needed to be cut. The wildflower garden at Cnoc Na Cro is wonderful. The 'Rent An Irish Cottage' properties are superbly presented as is the Dolmen Holiday Village. However, one property here looked very untidy with long grass to the front.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Apart from the very poor road surfacing on the Galway road the main approach roads were well presented. Verges had received just the right amount of treatment appropriate to such a beautiful rural area.

General Impression:

It was a great pleasure to return to Ballyvaughan after many years. Congratulations to everyone who has done such excellent work. Good luck with your projects for next year.