

# Tidy Towns Competition 2016

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyvaughan**

Ref: **60**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **316**

Category: **B**

Date(s): **06/07/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	46	47
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	46	49
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	43	43
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	34	35
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	66	67
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	29
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>316</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Ballyvaughan is most welcome to the 2016 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your application form and newly configured map. Ballyvaughan continues to score highly in Tidy Towns and deservedly so. The adjudicator was impressed with how you considered each of the recommendations or suggestions made in last year's report. We appreciate that it is not always feasible to carried through on these but it is welcome that they are explored nevertheless. It is noted that you are working against a three-year plan but do make sure that this is included in the application. Annotations to the plan may indicate where tasks have been completed. You continue to enjoy wide community involvement and this is heartening. Your emphasis on youth involvement is especially inspiring. One minor comment on potentially improving the application is to cut down on duplication as a number of projects were mentioned more than once. Where a project may fit more than one heading simply choose the most appropriate as points can not be awarded twice for the same project.

### Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

You have completed a number of important projects under this heading for this year. Your use of photos is good but a 'before' as well as an 'after' would give the adjudicator a sense of what was achieved. Certainly the fountain area was looking fresh and clean on adjudication day. Best of luck with your playground project. Your work on the water pump area and the old weighbridge are also excellent initiatives. Homes and businesses throughout Ballyvaughan were presented to their usual high standard on adjudication day. The tea rooms particularly caught the eye for its wonderful garden display. The Xpress shop/Emo is very clean but signage, including at the entrance, is worn and faded. The church is an impressive heritage and civic building and is greatly enhanced by its freshly painted railings. Orchids on the lawn were admired.

### Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

You are wished success with the development of your remembrance garden. The wildflower seed collection is probably best placed in the wildlife category. It is important that you do not hang baskets of flowers on electricity poles as they are a health and safety hazard (e.g. for workers who may need to access the lines). These should be removed. Elsewhere containers of flowers successfully draw the eye to points of interest. Landscaping through the town was judged to be well measured insofar that it does not take away from the native trees and Burren backdrop. Do maintain this approach and be assured that less is frequently more.

### Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

The collection of native wildflower seeds, for subsequent replanting is a superb initiative. Similarly the creation of

new habitats along green verges is worthy and the profusion of cowslips in your photo shows how these margins can be important for flora and fauna. You are commended for your vigilance with regard to Japanese knotweed and other alien invasive species. Well done to the Cubs on the new bug hotels, are there ever any follow-up activities to identify the bugs or learn more about the jobs they perform? Your location along the coast and in the Burren provides you with unique opportunities to engage with nature. The adjudicator is looking to see how you raise awareness among the community of these amazing assets. This could be through a series of walks or talks or explorations by local schoolchildren. Your nature area (where insect hotels were admired) is a wonderful resource.

### **Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:**

Well done on your achievements in this category. It is wonderful to read how waste minimisation is being prioritised as well as the depth to which local people are getting involved. Do keep us updated on progress with the green homes project. Your hope of achieving a greener destination village accreditation is admirable and you are wished every success with that. You are certainly well positioned to benefit from the accolade. Do make sure to list any green school achievements as these are most relevant to this category. For more helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

It's great that you have revived your participation in the national spring clean and well done to those who took part. Your system of litter patrols is essential in maintaining the high standards which are expected in a tourist town. It's great to see the cubs and beavers getting involved and the beach clean in particular would be good in combination with an event to highlight the marine environment. No part of our coastline escapes the scourge of plastic litter. Some litter had gathered in the bird hide although generally this area was accessible and well presented. The Wild Atlantic Way 'viewing point' has left a large rusty panel with no information. Do ensure this is not left in this condition. The old pier area however is beautifully presented. Information signage for looped walks etc are clean and appropriate to the location.

### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

Well done to the youth of St Josephs estate. They are inspiring civic pride and positive action throughout the village. Thatched cottages add great charm and character. St Josephs estate has beautiful green areas with mature trees. Do remember to remove rubber ties where these are no longer needed. Flowers around the pump are lovely – those in wooden boxes are not so successful as the boxes are too big. In general containers for flowers are used only where soil is unavailable, otherwise plants are best put straight in the ground.

### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

On approach from Kinvarra there seems to be two separate welcome signs where one would be sufficient. Well done for addressing flood damage on the school road while protecting your rare plants. The picnic area on approach from Fanore is well presented and was looking well used on adjudication day. The car park on approach from Ennistymon is clean and orderly. There is a need for a footpath or pedestrian crossing however to link this with the village centre. Your parking problems are well discussed and you should press Clare county council for a solution, either higher kerbing or more permanent bollards to replace battered plastic ones.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

It was a pleasure to visit Ballyvaughan and spend some time admiring the wonderful work you have been doing. Best of luck and keep up the good work!