

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballylongford** Ref: **326**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **281**
Category: **B** Date(s): **11/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	37	39
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	36	39
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	35	38
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	22	30
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	16	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	52	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	32
TOTAL MARK	450	261	281

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Ballylongford is very welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition 2017; thank you for your fine submission with multi-annual Tidy Towns Plan and clear map. For next year colour-code projects featured on the map and linked to details in the entry form for a more effective adjudication. Your adjudicator had not been to Ballylongford for many years and was most surprised to see the many positive changes. With twelve committee members twenty volunteers and other groups such as the Men's Shed to call upon for support it seems that the community is very cohesive and committed to the environmental and social development of their home-place. The committee's engagement with a wide network of stakeholders and with the schools augers well for the future of the community.

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

Well done on the survey of vacant premises in the village and the commitment to bring them back to their former beauty, we wish you every success in this venture. The T Kennelly and Sons garage premises is one of the best presented seen by your adjudicator anywhere in the country. Saint Michael the Archangel Church and its grounds are magnificent in design presentation and maintenance and the adjacent Saint Oliver's National School looks well also. The bridge walls appear to have been recently painted blue and white and 'catch the eye' in a pleasing way. Ballylongford's Heritage Trail is a most interesting, rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The beautifully landscaped Plaza at the entrance to Saint Michael the Archangel Church with polished granite seats and information panels have to be seen to be believed and is outshone only by the magnificent grounds of the church. Again, your adjudicator is lost for words of praise for the entrance to Ballylongford from the Ballyunion road with its landscaped area featuring shrubs young trees flower displays stone installations and green open space. It is good to note that your planting is sustainable and features year-round interest and colour. Well maintained green areas and picnic facilities are a welcome development. The Rose Wall initiative is excellent.

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

Work accomplished for the two graveyards are favourably noted and we look forward to seeing how well they continue to progress in future adjudications. The Pollinator and Herb Garden in the church grounds is invaluable for bio-diversity in Ballylongford. We note also community training in bio-diversity and your desire to survey wildlife in the bay and locally; we anticipate a successful outcome. Raising awareness of invasive species and working to eradicate Japanese Knotweed will be richly rewarded in time with the enhancement of local bio-diversity.

Montebretia is thriving along road margins, try to contain it as it is invasive also and will compromise native species although not to the extent of the Japanese Knotweed. The wildlife panel for the bay on the Tarbert road is laudable, it would be nice to see these in the village and a Nature Trail of local wildlife developed.

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

The recycling point and clothes bank in the Centra carpark are being well managed and look tidy; the laundromat enjoys good maintenance too. With projects ranging from non-paper communication through composting, sustainable travel, energy management and food waste prevention Ballylongford is poised for optimum performance under this heading in the not too distant future! Congratulations to the pupils of Saint Oliver's National School for their achievements in the Green Flag programme. Consideration might now be given to the installation of water butts for water harvesting to use in watering Ballylongford's many landscaped areas. Try to quantify savings made and efficiencies achieved even if these are just good guesstimates to provide feedback to the community and to motivate further.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Ballylongford was litter free for adjudication and your adjudicator believes this is the norm at all times, the regular clean-ups and the Pizza and Coke Nights no doubt have a part to play in this situation! Participation in the Clean Coasts Programme is laudable. It is good to note that litter is segregated for recycling. Has the litter been analysed to identify its source, type, location and frequency of occurrence? This kind of information can be useful in devising a strategy that may help prevent the litter at source thereby reducing the amount of clean-ups necessary. Overhead service cables are a strong visual feature in the village centre and cause visual clutter, hopefully these can be ducted at some point in the future.

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

Beautifully painted single and two storey dwellings are a feature of Ballylongford's village centre. The Radharc na hAbhainn residential development was admired also and the River Cottage is absolutely charming. The residential 'Best Kept' competition will no doubt make a significant difference to the estate roads and streets of the village. Encourage residents to maintain their roadside boundary walls to as high a standard of presentation as their dwellings and gardens.

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

The entrance from the Tarbert approach road features a beautifully landscaped area together with beautifully white washed concrete post fencing; well done on leaving the beeline in the grass verge here. Car parking appears to be well catered for in the village centre and the Centra car park is well surfaced and lined. Many walls and old buildings look quite well. The junction at Quay Street looked well with its flower displays

Concluding Remarks:

Ballylongford is certainly not a 'drive through' experience; everyone who passes through will want to stop and stay a while.