

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballinskelligs**

Ref: **1481**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **254**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **23/06/2017**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2016 | Mark Awarded 2017 |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Community Involvement & Planning | 60 | 34 | 34 |
| Built Environment and Streetscape | 50 | 34 | 36 |
| Landscaping and Open Spaces | 50 | 31 | 33 |
| Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities | 50 | 13 | 15 |
| Sustainable Waste and Resource Management | 50 | 14 | 16 |
| Tidiness and Litter Control | 90 | 53 | 58 |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas | 50 | 31 | 32 |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes | 50 | 28 | 30 |
| TOTAL MARK | 450 | 238 | 254 |

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Ballinskelligs is welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition 2017 and thank you for your participation in the competition over the past five years, we have enjoyed visits to your splendid village. We did not receive the required multi-annual Tidy Towns plan with your submission, do try to include one in future years as it is difficult to progress significantly without one. The map provided was not good enough for adjudication purposes; projects should have been identified on your map, numbered, colour-coded, and linked to the entry form. Thank you for the fine brochure on Ballinskelligs. Good links have been established with other stakeholders in the development of the community and we note your use of social media in addition to traditional methods of communication; there is also a fruitful working relationship with the school.

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

Cable O'Leary's Pub Restaurant is nicely presented together with its car park; Tig Rosie on Chapel Field has an attractive gable wall; Seipeal Mhichil and its curtilage area display an elegant simplicity and Coll Rialaig and its grounds look superb as does its neighbour Scoil Mhichil. The Heritage Centre (old Garda Station) is a wonderful facility, well done too on acquiring the property on the top of the pier for conversion to a base for the Men's Shed. The mobile home park looks quite neat and it is good to note from your entry that the offending street light has been removed. Congratulations on the dark sky specification of your street lights.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Well done on planting of walls between the school and the community centre and the planting of strawberry plants at the entrance to the sports grounds. A large green open space near the Post Office premises could be landscaped. The landscaped corner of the road to the beach looks especially well and that at the church looks superb. In your choice of plants be mindful of the needs of wildlife and choose native species where possible. Also, although Fuchsia and Montebretia look wonderful they are non-native, spread very easily and will compromise native species if allowed to grow unchecked so keep them to existing areas. The use of Ogham stone pieces at many locations is a nice touch. Pairc Peile Naomh Mhichil is nicely maintained however its landscaping at the car park could be refreshed.

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

Hopefully the rock armour installed at the beach to protect the dunes will be successful. Congratulations on Ballinskellig's Beach maintaining its Blue Flag status, it was very clean during adjudication and has good facilities too. The pier was equally clean however do keep a check on weed growth. It is good to note from your entry form

that the Monk's Trail Walk has passed its final inspection however there was no signage or other indication of its presence noted by your adjudicator, hopefully it wasn't simply missed! The children's playground initiative at the beach is excellent. Access to the old Ballinskelligs Abbey is comfortable now as is the area around Saint Michaels Well.

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

Well done on are recycling scheme whereby a domestic or recycling bag can be obtained to be filled and deposited in the shop for recycling in community centre and at the school; this is a system that facilitates holiday home residents very well. Although the Bring Centre is tidy the bins themselves look a bit dishevelled and the clothing bank bin was stuffed to capacity. Congratulations to the school on its fourth green flag and on its garden. The poly tunnel and vegetable beds at the back of the community centre are favourably noted as is the use of seaweed for manure. It is good to note that local farmers have a facility to recycle their plastic waste.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The litter station at the beach carpark whereby walkers can pick up a bag to collect any litter they may see along the beach during their walk to leave it back to the bin at the carpark which is then emptied daily is an excellent arrangement which accounts for the litter free status of Ballinskelligs beach together with regular clean-ups. Everyone involved is to be commended. The Ballinskelligs Holiday Homes sign looks a bit dishevelled. An undeveloped site with the remains of old buildings located near the sports grounds has potential for development which hopefully will be appropriate. Quite a lot of weed growth and poorly surfaced entrances and side areas were noted. Well done on the reduction of signage clutter.

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

Many properties were admired for their presentation of gardens however do remind householders of the need to pay as much attention to their roadside boundary walls and areas immediately outside of these as they do to dwellings and gardens. The Sunny Beach residential development looks quite graceful in an understated way; a second nice housing estate (unidentified) is also attractive, it is located across from the Holiday Home Park. The red and white house near the crossroads with floral display to the side is very eye-catching. Continue to encourage all residents both holiday and local to maintain their own dwellings and surrounding areas too.

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

The beach carpark is well surfaced and lined and the outdoor market here and nice touch. It is good to note that the two carparks at the beach are being joined by a roadway with a one-way system, this will make negotiating the area much simpler. The natural look of Ballinskelligs roadside verges is fine, they should not look too formal given the nature of the village however be mindful of wildlife habitats when cutting back and strimming and be sure not to do so between March and August. It is good to note that verges and junctions are managed without the use of chemicals.

Concluding Remarks:

Ballinskelligs is a really lovely destination and your adjudicator enjoyed every moment of the experience to the extent that a return visit for leisure purposes is on the cards!