

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballybunion**

Ref: **323**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **302**

Category: **C**

Date(s): **11/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	43	44
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	42	43
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	40	41
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	31	32
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	20	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	59
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	32
TOTAL MARK	450	298	302

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Ballybunion is welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition, thank you for your submission this year and your continued participation in the competition for the past thirty six years, it has been a pleasure adjudicating your lovely town over the years. The small 'core committee' of four with a volunteer base of fourteen and a large number of groups to call upon appears to work for the Tidy Towns in Ballybunion; your "Increasing Membership Plan" is noted and we wish you success. The map provided with your entry is clear and helpful and would be more so if the projects identified on it were colour-coded too. There are many plans in place for Ballybunion's future development ranging from Action Plans to strategic Long-Term Plan and incorporating others such as Funding Plan, Biodiversity Plan and more; this is impressive and we sincerely wish you success in implementation and achievement of goals for the future of the town and its community. equally impressive is the wide and varied network of support groups and working relationships with the schools, residents and the business community.

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

Most buildings within Ballybunion are nicely painted and presented, well done on those recently refurbished to their roadside façade; some gable walls in Bottle Lane need attention as they have a high visibility in the streetscape; the audit of 'shabby' buildings is favourably noted and no doubt vacant shops receive inclusion too together with the old Tourist Information point and Bank of Ireland premises which is a 'key focal point' in the streetscape. buildings that were admired include: The Cliffhouse Hotel; Scoil Iosagain and the church; The Health and Leisure Centre; The Library; the Garda Station and the Fire Station. Murals at various locations are a 'nice touch' for visual amenity especially on the 'Kit Ahern Road' which are excellent. It is good to report the absence of overhead wirescape and old associated service poles and the beautifully maintained street furniture.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Some very large planters in Ballybunion's town centre which accommodate trees shrubs and flowers look really impressive. It is good to report landscaping for year-round colour and interest in the ratio of 25%/75% perennial in addition to pollinator friendly plants. Recently planted 'mature' trees are favourably noted too. Be careful with Montebretia as although naturalised it is non-native and invasive and will eventually undermine native species and bio-diversity; try to contain it to existing sites rather than planting it in new areas. Your adjudicator is interested to see how the footpath planted with 'Phormiums' will work in practice as the footpath is not very wide, hopefully they will be accommodated successfully. The green open spaces at Marion Crescent look wonderful. Planting at the entrance to Casheen car park looked as though it was not thriving, it featured a sign designating it as a pollination zone and features a currach at the entrance too; the car park here is quite potholed; the dolphin sculpture and granite seat is excellent.

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

Ballybunion's beaches are of course magnificent which is no surprise, maintenance and interpretation is to a very high standard. The roadside boundary to McEnery's Caravan Park is very neat and the caravan park opposite the golf course features an excellent roadside boundary too; the golf course looks well also. The Convent Walk continues to provide for recreational amenity of a high standard. The burial grounds on the road to Casheen are neatly presented. The playground and carpark enjoy good maintenance. Well done on the Three-Year Biodiversity Plan and the planned biodiversity park at Casheen. 'Biodiversity Walk and Talks' and 'Foraging Walk and Talks' are excellent initiatives which will make a significant contribution to public awareness of wildlife in Ballybunion and further afield. The junior national pollination plan is commendable and the application for Agenda 21 grants by the schools well informed.

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

Recycling points are neatly presented and it seems well used. The ethic of rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle appears to be community wide in Ballybunion. Energy initiatives in a number of dwellings and the windmill initiative are excellent; try to calculate efficiencies achieved for next year, they don't have to be exact, an informed 'guesstimate' will suffice. Keep us updated on the grass cuttings project, it will be interesting to find how it works out. Well done to the gardening team for growing plants from seeds and cuttings. The use of Facebook to share composting (and other) ideas is commendable.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

A lot of work goes into maintaining Ballybunion litter free and the goal has been achieved to a considerable degree judging by the cleanliness of your streets, beaches and green areas during adjudication. Litter picking and clean-ups is a community wide activity and all who freely give of their time are to be applauded. We note (and admire) the audit of litter collected, has this information enabled you to prevent at least some of it at source and reduced the number of clean-ups necessary? Let us know next year. It is good to note the segregation of litter for recycling. Treatment to vacant buildings is noteworthy and that at the old Bakery deserves special mention. Construction work in progress in the curtilage of Saint Joseph's Secondary School is noted and it is anticipated that all traces of building materials etc., will be removed upon completion.

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

Well done (again) on the planting of trees in estates and the choice for pollinators; it is good to note that some estates are considering alternative mowing regimes. Individual dwellings and residential estates are well presented in the majority of cases. There are a few poor roadside areas to boundary walls and some good examples too, when these are grassed in a continuous line it is particularly visually appealing. The entrance to Hillview Close has been completed and looks well; residents of the new Seafort estate on the Tarbert Road will hopefully participate fully with Tidy Towns. Encourage all to maintain their roadside boundary walls to the same high standard as their dwellings and gardens.

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

The Tralee/Listowel entrance looks very good with its green in their verges natural state and good landscaping too. Many roadside field boundaries feature pollinator friendly wildflowers and look well. The roadside perimeter of caravan park is neatly presented too. Reference has already been made to the Phormium planted on the footpath. The Supervalu carpark is nicely managed and offers a good public toilet facility and a 24/7 laundry facility. The car park to the rear of the Community Centre is quite bad and back lanes do not look that well in many instances. Some street name plates need improvement. On street car parking should be reduced to one side of the street only where road width is limited. Doon cross together with the church, burial grounds and interpretation is an excellent introduction to Ballybunion. New stretches of footpath are favourably noted.

Concluding Remarks:

a lot of fine work has been achieved for Ballybunion and it is good to note the many plans in place for its future development especially in relation to wildlife. The town looks really well