

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyduff** Ref: **1071**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **224**
Category: **B** Date(s): **11/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	35
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	28
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	27
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	20
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	24
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	25
TOTAL MARK	450	224

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome back to Tidy Towns, it has been a long time since Ballyduff participated in the competition and it is a pleasure to welcome you to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition 2017. Thank you for your completed entry form which includes a clear map; you are directed to the Tidy Towns website and Handbook where you will find guidelines on submitting your entry and many other aspects of the competition. You will need to prepare and submit a multi-annual Tidy Towns Plan each year together with a map with projects for the current year colour-coded and linked numerically to details in the entry form; without fulfilling these basic requirements it is difficult to make further progress under this heading of the competition. It is suggested that strong links are formed with the business community and sporting organisations of Ballyduff. The input of the national school pupils are noted favourably.

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

Business premises and public buildings within Ballyduff are presented to a mixed standard, some look very well indeed while others need some attention. Purcells Bar looks great and the shop and Post Office looks very well too in addition to the Credit Union premises. The presentation of the building beside the Pharmacy could be improved; the Garda station premises looks like it might be vacant but this was difficult to discern. The plastic "Takeaway" sign is too large, something nicer and of an appropriate scale is suggested; consideration might also be given to replacing the plastic fascia signs on the O'Connor's and Hennessy premises. Overhead service cables are visually intrusive in their streetscape and the timber service poles along the street are unattractive.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The garden classes are a great initiative and it is good to note the professional help accessed. Hanging baskets and other container plants looked really well for adjudication and were strategically placed for maximum visual impact; it is good to note that many plants were grown from seed and cuttings. The renewal of old shrub beds is important for performance under this heading as more marks are available for permanent rather than container planting as the latter tend to be short-lived. When designing new landscaped areas include plants for all seasons of the year and try to choose native plants to enhance Ballyduff's bio-diversity. The same points apply to the planting of trees as sites for these must be carefully chosen to accommodate their long-term growth; once planted trees will also need to be managed carefully. Additional landscaping is suggested for the Church Square. Landscaping is suggested to the inside of the roadside boundary of Kerrys Agri Business on the main road.

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

The plan to organise the bio-diversity classes in the autumn with Kerry ETB is an excellent initiative that will lay a good foundation for future performance under this heading not to mention the future bio-diversity status of Ballyduff; update us next year on the syllabus and any other interesting details. Are the owl boxes installed in deserted houses inhabited yet? Give us news of this next year also. To optimize Ballyduff's performance under this heading it is important not to use weed killer, find appropriate alternatives including hand-picking if necessary. As noted above native plants should be chosen to support bio-diversity, pollinator friendly flowers and other plants should also be featured in planted areas and allowed to thrive in wild-flower areas. The committee might give some thought to submitting a project for the Pollinator Award next year, the school children could be involved in it too.

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

Performance under this heading is about the prevention of waste at source (not how much is recycled) and the efficient use of resources such as water and energy. We note the installation of water butts to harvest rainwater presumably for watering landscaped areas and plants; this is a good start and should be extended community wide in Ballyduff. The committee should also consider projects to optimise energy efficiency. Log onto localprevention.ie to see what other centres are doing and refer to the Tidy Towns Handbook and website. Community workshops on the topic of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle might be organised for the autumn also, your local environmental awareness officer should be contacted about this. Discussions with KCC regarding the installation of recycling bins are noted.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter control in Ballyduff is very good and there appears to be no issue of dumping either; we note weekly litter-picks which no doubt plays an important role in your litter management. Representations regarding the installation of litter bins are noted also. The committee might now consider participating in the National Spring Clean too. The garage located on the entrance from the Ballybunion road looks quite untidy to its curtilage area in addition to some commercial yards on the coast road; there appears to be a few undeveloped sites which if not due for redevelopment soon should be appropriately screened from public view Wirescape (noted above) looks untidy too.

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

Meadow Lane residential development features well maintained green open spaces and colourful landscaping. Beautiful gardens were admired throughout Ballyduff. Encourage householders to pay attention to the presentation of their roadside boundary walls and areas immediately outside of these too; very often these are forgotten and can diminish the appearance of a dwelling if neglected. The committee should link up with individual residents or a resident's association representative in order to decide upon an appropriate strategy for the presentation of their areas. This section of the application form has been left empty, to make significant progress we need to know of your activities under this heading.

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

Field boundaries on the Ballybunion entrance are presented in their natural form and an attractive name-stone is featured which creates a good first impression. The Ballyheigue entrance and approach road looks well also with good landscaping at its name-stone; the footpath on the Ballyheigue entrance could be refurbished. Road and footpath surfaces are of a mixed standard. Curtilage areas of commercial premises on approach roads diminish the overall presentation of the village as they leave a lasting impression notwithstanding the flower displays at entrances.

Concluding Remarks:

It was lovely to revisit Ballyduff after an absence of too many years; the Ballyduff in Bloom committee has done a good job in bring colour into the village which is a good start for re-entry into the tidy Towns Competition.