

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballyheigue** Ref: **324**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **242**
Category: **C** Date(s): **13/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	30
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	33
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	30
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	7
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	24
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30
TOTAL MARK	450	242

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition 2017 and thank you for your submission. Ballyheigue looked wonderful for adjudication and was a pleasure to adjudicate; it has been many years since your adjudicators last visit and while the village has maintained its strong identity there have been a number of changes which have enhanced Ballyheigue. Although workable the map provided did not meet the requirements of the competition as projects were not colour-coded and linked numerically to details in the entry form; we did not receive the required multi-annual Tidy Towns Plan either. It is difficult to make significant progress under this heading of the competition without one. The committee have all the right community links in place for Tidy Towns work and have achieved much in the past year with the help of community supports. We commend your use of Facebook to publish Tidy Towns news and events in addition to others.

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

Business premises within the centre of Ballyheigue enjoy an excellent presentation in most instances; public buildings were admired also especially the Community Centre (with its painted mural) and the Family Resource Centre; the HSE premises could be improved to its roadside façade. The castle continues to impress, is it floodlit at night? The main issue in the streetscape of the village centre is the wirescape which is visually intrusive and the service poles which are unattractive elements of the streetscape. It is appreciated that this is outside of the immediate control of the committee however representations should be made to the council with a view to having cables ducted and poles removed. We anticipate a successful outcome to the proposed work on the old creamery building, well done on this initiative. It is good to note further development to the car park of the Community Centre.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The Blessed Well / Lady's Well Grotto development is excellent in concept, design and presentation; some minor observations are offered for consideration; the supports for seating should be maintained freshly white washed and the benches varnished. The public facility development (toilet block) noted here is a welcome feature; the Kevin Moriarty carpark car park needs resurfacing. It is good to note universal accessibility here. The Garden of Remembrance was admired for its elegant simplicity. Landscaping at several locations was admired for colour and maintenance of green areas. The new lawnmower is rewarding the investment made in it! If there is a tree planting programme do let us have details. Keep in mind the needs of wildlife when choosing plants and plant for all seasons of the year.

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

The beach looked very clean and was a delight to experience. We note the proposed cladding of the beach wall and look forward to seeing this next year. Do provide details of the bio-diversity training and species planted at Healey's Cross; keep us up-to-date also on the success or otherwise of the re-planting of marram grass to repair storm damage. Information on Ballyheigue's wildlife habitats should be featured on interpretive panels at a number of appropriate locations throughout the village. A wildlife survey of the village and its environs should be considered including a wild bird survey, the children could be involved, BirdWatch Ireland is an excellent resource in this respect. A project under the National Pollination Plan might also be considered and entered for the Pollination Award in the competition, again the youngsters can join in too. The sports grounds look well, the walls could be planted. The caravan park is neat but its wire & post fencing could be improved.

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

The recycling point is neatly presented and good car parking facilities here are noted favourably. For optimum performance under this heading it is necessary to take on projects with a goal of preventing waste at source and achieving efficiencies in the management of water and energy usage. Log onto localprevention.ie to see what other communities are doing. A good start might be to install water butts at a number of locations around the village (preferably near landscaped areas) for use in watering plants. It is difficult for an adjudicator to give an increase in marks when information provided in the entry form is very sparse.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter control in Ballyheigue is excellent and regular parish and beach clean-up events are no doubt responsible for raising litter awareness. The litter collected should be analysed to determine its source, type, location and frequency of occurrence to enable the committee devise a strategy to help prevent the litter at source. No doubt litter is segregated for rec to enable the committee devise a strategy to help prevent the litter at source. No doubt litter is segregated for recycling. Well done on litter bin replacement and those for dog-fouling too. Congratulations on permission gained to clear and tidy the derelict site in the village centre. Well done also on agreement for the refurbishment of premises on the Tarbert Road.

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

Nicely presented roadside areas to boundary walls on the Ardfert Road are an excellent introduction to Ballyheigue and many natural stone roadside boundary walls are a handsome feature also. The residential development beside the Family Resource Centre could be landscaped and roadside areas to boundary walls beyond Church Field could be improved. Ocean View residential looks well and Lady's Well residential development on the Ballyduff road is excellent. Town houses feature a very pleasing palate of colours and are well maintained.

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

Entrances to Ballyheigue from the Ardfert Road look really well with neat grass verges and flower displays. The stone wall leading into the village from Healy's Cross is worth refurbishing, we note plans for the re-plastering of another long stretch of wall. Representations to the council regarding footpaths is acknowledged and we wish you a successful outcome. The car park at the Castle could be resurfaced.

Concluding Remarks:

It was lovely to revisit Ballyheigue and witness its changing face while at the same time remaining the same at its core. To make further significant progress in the competition consult the Tidy Towns website and Handbook.