

# Tidy Towns Competition 2018

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballylongford** Ref: **326**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **295**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **17/07/2018**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2017</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2018</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	39	42
Streetscape & Public Places	50	39	40
Green Spaces and Landscaping	50	38	38
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	30	31
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	17	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	60
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	33
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>295</b>

### **Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:**

Céad fáilte roimh Ballylongford Béal Átha Longfoirt chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara Supervalu don Bhliain 2018, agus chuig Ceiliúradh 60 Bliain an Chomórtais. Many thanks for your entry in this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for participating in Ireland's biggest community project on this, its 60th year of making Ireland a better place.

First of all, congratulations on a really lovely entry this year. This was clear and thoughtfully out-together and well laid out. The map was excellent and colour-coded for easy use. It may be a function of age on the part of the adjudicator but the numbers were difficult to read - the only complaint on an otherwise lovely piece of work. You have painted a good picture in this category too, of your group and what makes you tick. Although only involved in the competition for 5 years, you have really come on well in a short time. Key to this is community support as you obviously enjoy this here in Ballylongford. This includes strong voluntary contributions and time, energy and expertise. You have also brought some good skills and imagination to the task.

### **Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:**

Your work within an ACA is very important. For example, you continue your survey of dereliction and building condition. The boat area project you have listed in this category would be better entered in the Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes category, however. The old Fire Station looks fantastic. A variety of buildings have been painted, including the road frontage of agricultural buildings too. However, it is the Church and Community Centre campus that is the jewel in your crown. The sculpture of your iconic Abbey window looked really, really good. The national school was flying its Green Flag, Yellow Flag and Entrepreneur Flag to boot. The veggie patch was noted and gates, walls and all were in perfect order. The grounds are very neat. Perhaps a little too neat. Would they consider a wilder area here for the sake of biodiversity?

The community centre looks superb with its lovely window-boxes. All around had been swept. There was lots of great information on the lectern-style plinths. Be careful of using old coriboard sheets lest the back of same is visible through the railings! A kerbstone was askew here on the way into the church.

Heaphy's Centra looks very bright and busy. The signs are quite large for such an area. Some really lovely older shopfronts were also a feature of the visit. The black and white tiled butcher's shopfront, for example. Finucane's Bar is lovely. Kenelly's was being painted on day of visit. The Post Office was somewhat disappointing and would look better with less clutter. O'Connor's Bar was lovely with its many flowers. The hardware shop adjacent appears to be closed and the shutters could look better. The old mill at the river has been painted and looks great. The mill door has been really well done. Not far away, a gorgeous job has been done on the garage.

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

Thank you for the narrative that you've provided here. Here you describe spring planting and work on the Picnic/Green Area. It is felt that you have perhaps done more work here than described as lots of evidence of well-planned initiatives was seen. The Grotto looked well. Really lovely work in the grounds of the community centre and church was much enjoyed by the adjudicator. The lavender planting here is so effective. There are also lovely semi-mature-mature whitebeam trees. More recent tree-planting was noted between the church and the school. Tiered planters near the community centre were well-watered. The 1916 commemoration is simple but well done. Your boat is planted with annuals and looked freshly painted on the day. A new Euonymus bed here looked in place beside the new footpath. The hanging baskets at the bridge look really superb, one of the many examples of your carefully planned work. There is a slight over-reliance on annuals and you should be thinking about a move to perennials now.

### **Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:**

Again, a very good introduction to this category was enjoyed. It is considered that you are well-versed in your local species and habitats. You correctly make reference to the Special Protection Area. You clearly have good local expertise within your ranks. There are several very worthwhile initiatives described in your entry for this category from All Ireland Pollinator Plan actions to Invasive Species upskilling. Well done.

### **Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:**

And again a good preamble read well here. You make and use your own compost, very good. The upcycling challenge is really good and you communicate where you can by email. Paper being a last resort. Maybe expand on more projects (that you surely already do) that involve day-to-day waste avoidance. Look to the Tidy Towns website for more ideas if you're stuck, but you probably won't be. Wind turbines on the skylines are a new and welcome addition to Ballylongford since the last visit.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Another nicely laid out and illustrated entry here, Ballylongford. Well done. You take part in annual events as well as organising your own anti-litter actions. Anti dog litter initiatives are given. Next year please critically rate their success and any responses required. Big thanks to all for their work but ecosystem to the students, pupils and CE employees.

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

Congratulations on hosting the Tidy Towns Estate and Street competitions. Encouraging healthy competition between householders and streets is exactly the way to go. You provided spring bulbs for two estates. Very good. The freshly-painted cottage on the quay looked beautiful with its full window-boxes and sharp colours. Nearby there is a planted bike and a telephone box undergoing a renewal. Some private residences were noteworthy for their high quality paintwork and clean exteriors. The adjudicator was very taken with the quality of the presentation of some of the terraced houses. Some former business premises have been repurposed and the favourite of these was being used to promote Ballylongford Tidy Towns, Biodiversity and Bees. Lovely! Some beautiful period windows were seen and were a highlight of the visit. There were lovely colours at Radharc na hAbhainn and it was good to see children out playing.

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

Some extensive areas were treated to your attentions this year. This included fencing painted, grassed areas cut with wildlife strips left and new seating. The approach from Tarbert is really nice with nicely kept margins and mature trees, well done. Get rid of the Ballylongford sign from the telegraph pole on the way into the village here, though. It's not necessary. The adjudicator loves your distinctive (if not unique) window motif. Reilig Mhicíl looked very well looked after. Recent tree-planting was noted here and gates were well-painted. Sand Quay is a gem of an approach road. Some great work has gone into this, well done. The green at the junction with Carrig Island looks so good. An amazing difference here from last visit; Fair play. There are lovely roses, ox-eye daisy and extensive tree-planting. Be sure to remove tree-straps when not needed, please.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

A truly amazing amount of progress in a few short years. The adjudicator was delighted to have the opportunity to be back in Ballylongford again. Keep this up and you will be going very far in this competition indeed.