

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **BALLYLONGFORD**  
County : **KERRY**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	25	28
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	22	24
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	21	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	5	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>184</b>

## **Ballylongford, County Kerry**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Ballylongford is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your continued participation and for this year's submission. It is good to note that you have the support of statutory bodies and the local community. The Heritage Park development at the church grounds is an attractive element and the connection of the village with Carrigafoyle Castle is a valuable asset. Try to find ways of incorporating this heritage into the built environment of the village. Ballylongford has potential to be successful in the Tidy Towns Competition given its proximity to the estuary and its monastic, literary and castle heritage. However the village is not near realising this potential to do well in the competition due to the quality of the built environment. This must be disheartening for the committee.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There has been a loss of marks under this heading this year due to the lack of progress made in addressing long standing problems. For example properties and walls on Quay Street look particularly bad and walls on Bridge Street could be improved also. Simple cleaning, painting or planting with a climbing plant might address these problems as an interim measure. Many derelict / vacant premises retain some of their traditional features which is a valuable part of Ballylongford's heritage and hopefully when these buildings are being refurbished, these features will be incorporated into the refurbishment. The car sales / garage in the village centre is an unfortunate development at this location as it is the focal point of Ballylongford, could it be relocated? The Centra premises opposite needs to be repainted in sections. The signage on the Rover's Return / Boyles Bar looks dreadful. The village is unlikely to progress much further under this heading until a start has been made on the more serious of these problems.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The Millennium Park in the church grounds looks particularly well and landscaping across from the Spar around the perimeter of the car park is attractive also. The entrance from the Ballyunion road is also nicely presented and maintained. Stands of mature trees in the vicinity of the village are a valuable part of your heritage. Tree planting should be an important part of the Tidy Towns effort in appropriate locations to provide a heritage for future generations. There is some excellent advice in the Tidy Towns Handbook on this aspect of the competition. The picnic area is attractive. The concrete post fencing along Sand Quay should be planted.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

There is no mention in your submission as to activities under this heading. Again you are referred to the Tidy Towns handbook for some ideas. Given its coastal location, the village and its environs will be a haven for wildlife. Perhaps a good place to start would be to conduct a habitat survey. The graveyard was neatly presented.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control was not good. Litter black spots included the Main Street and the carpark opposite the Spar. Litter bins in the village are not attractive. A litter awareness campaign needs to be organised for Ballylongford.

## **TIDINESS**

Mention has already been made of the many untidy sites and derelict buildings around the village. Of course this is not news to the committee, representations have been made to local and regional authorities. All that remains for us to do is to wish you well in having this problem dealt with.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The village scores quite well under this heading. Many properties appear to have been freshly painted and there is a handsome mix of single storey and two storey residential properties. Many of the latter have some fine architectural details which should be retained upon refurbishment.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

The new namestones look well and the street nameplates are attractive also. Wirescape in the village centre is visually obtrusive and will hopefully be ducted at some stage in the future. Litter bins could be co-ordinated with lampstandards and public seating.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Ballylongford's estuarine location together with its heritage are instrumental in creating a favourable impression of the village. All that remains is for the built environment to make its contribution.