

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballylongford**

Ref: **171**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **186**

Category: **B**

Date: **17/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	
The Built Environment	40	28	
Landscaping	40	26	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	
Litter Control	40	25	
Tidiness	20	14	
Residential Areas	30	18	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	
General Impression	10	6	
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>186</b>	

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Ballylongford is welcome back to the competition since the last entry in 2001. The large committee of 15 members is a great asset to the village and hopefully great progress will be made with this number. Firstly, it is important to develop a plan for the next three or five years. All the items that need attention and any development possibilities in the town should be listed and prioritised - the comments beneath may assist you in this regard. Having looked at the work involved in each, a plan of action should be drafted indicating who will undertake each task, the resources available and the realistic time scale involved. Progress can then be monitored each year and the plan adjusted accordingly as you go along. This will not only give the committee a specific focus on its activities it will also allow the adjudicator award marks as progress is made under the various headings. Care should be taken not to expect to do too much too soon as improvements will take time.

### The Built Environment:

In the four main street of the village there are a number of well maintained and presented buildings. Many people take great care with painting and presentation of their buildings. There is also a number of buildings needing attention. Derelict buildings are always a problem in towns. Hopefully these can be resolved in time. The historical Lislaughtin Abbey and Carrigafoyle Castle are important attributes near the village and add history and character to the village. Buildings – such as the old Mill and surrounding buildings - will hopefully get a new lease of life in the future as they not do display well in their present state. The village name signs are attractive. A number of corrugated

iron shed roofs are unattractive. The shed by the beautiful Saleen Quay takes greatly from this spot. The forecourt of the Garda Station needs urgent attention.

### **Landscaping:**

In the main streets many houses and business premises have presented attractive displays of container plants. Gardens also contribute well to the overall landscape of the village. The Lislaughtin Abbey surrounds are beautifully cared for and the cemetery beautifully attended to. Some sites within the village – for example opposite Kennelly garage seem to be awaiting development and are becoming very weedy and unattractive. Tree planting wherever possible is advisable to keep a green foil to the village for the future. The church and school grounds are very well cared for from the landscaping point of view. Extensive work has been carried out on the boundary inside and replanting has taken place. The small island borders within the driveway are a little small for the scale of the space and if larger could accommodate one tree in each. The hedging around the recycling bins is attractive and well tended.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Consideration should be given to development of a wild life project. Perhaps this could be done in conjunction with the school and with the accumulation of local information about what may be seen in the area. Having the waterside is a great advantage in this regard and should be availed of fully. The sign for the blue drive was noted. The area of unmown grass at the school grounds is a good idea to promote wildlife.

### **Litter Control:**

Generally there is a good level of litter control although small amounts were noted by kerbside through the town in places. Constant vigilance is needed to avoid litter accumulation. The new bins may help to create awareness. The recycle bins are well placed being neatly tucked into the corner of a well tarmacadamed carpark and the surrounds are very clean.

### **Tidiness:**

Generally there is a good level of tidiness about. Some construction work - and those sites awaiting developments give a little untidiness. The old petrol pump on the corner at the cross roads at the village centre is a little tatty. The buildings at the town side on traveling to Lislaughtin Abbey give an untidy feel to that area. Hopefully the overhead cables will be removed underground in time – some lobbying in this regard would be helpful.

### **Residential Areas:**

Standards of housing and surrounds are good with considerable care and attention being shown by residents. This contributes greatly to villages and towns. Having so much residential housing through the main streets is great as it keeps life in the village. It would be wise when altering or making improvements to houses in the main streets to try to keep buildings consistent with their traditional style.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Some improvements in road surfaces are needed where they are patchy or uneven. The surface by the recycle bins is wonderful and if this was the standard throughout the town it would be marvelous. Attention to kerbs is also needed in placements where they are broken or inconsistent. Kerb weeds can give a very uncared for look. The approach roads are in good condition and the town is well concentrated in the centre without sprawling developments on the outskirts.

## **General Impression:**

Ballylongford has much to offer. The focus in the village is very much towards the crossing streets and this arrangement gives a great core to the town. When current development work is complete improvements will be seen. There appears to be a good spirit of enterprise in the village with several people noted tending to plants, paint and cleaning work. Hopefully the observations made here will contribute to your future planning.