

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ballylongford** Ref: **326**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **216**
Category: **B** Date(s): **14/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	0	29
The Built Environment	50	0	32
Landscaping	50	0	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	0	17
Litter Control	50	0	27
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	0	2
Tidiness	30	0	15
Residential Areas	40	0	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	0	28
General Impression	10	0	6
TOTAL MARK	400	0	216

Overall Development Approach:

Ballylongford is welcome back to the 2013 National Tidy Towns Competition. Your last entry was in 2007. It is noted that your committee have only recently been formed but already you have 12 members on your team. Thank you for your submission, which included the completed application form and a helpful map with a coloured legend locating work done. Well done to the local school children on taking part in the National Spring Clean. Your newly formed group should now consider the preparation of a 3-5 year plan to give focus to your on-going efforts. We note from your application form that you have now sought support or financial assistance from other interested bodies to date. It would be important for your committee to liaise with the various departments of Kerry County Council dealing with your area and perhaps some assistance could be also sought from other state agencies such as FAS and Leader.

The Built Environment:

At the cross in the village centre both John Jackman's Butcher Shop and Kenneally's Bar have a good architectural character and both look very well and together with the Post Office and O'Connors provide a lively commercial atmosphere here. At Bridge St., Gusto's Kitchen and the Horse and Hound were both very well presented. The old Fire Station looks unsightly now. A repaint here would be a great improvement on a prominent corner opposite the church and school. Centra's and associated car parks were clean and well presented.

Landscaping:

The village has some very nice landscaping interventions at various locations but the highlight was the wonderfully presented grounds at the Church and Parish Hall. The sculptural elements, the interpretation of the 300 years old Lislaughton Cross and the gothic church window, have a meaningful historic context. The standing stone storyboard features arranged around the grounds and associated seating and planting provide very welcoming atmosphere. Well done to the Green Flag school on the presentation of very attractive grounds. The entry area at the Community Hall has some high quality landscaping attributes and the circular layout here, of the shrubbery and limestone features, has a fine design quality. The building forecourt would benefit from a name sign for the building. The Ballylongford Sport and Recreation Centre is very well located just off Main Street and integrates well with the village core. The playing field was well manicured and all buildings here were painted up and sparkling.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Ballylongford has an important wildlife hinterland and it would be well worth your while to engage with the Kerry wildlife Office or your local schools to develop under this category. Perhaps some wildlife surveys could be considered as a school or youth project.

Litter Control:

Your litter clean-up was impressive and is a good start to your proposed regular clean-ups. Well done to the school on having regular litter patrols at the school and church grounds. One litter bin at Centra was full to overflowing.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

We note that you have not yet developed plans under this category. Perhaps you should consider contacting the Kerry County Council Environmental Officer to seek assistance in relation to developing a strategy in this regard. The Bring Bank at Centra was clean and well presented.

Tidiness:

We note your comments regarding the NAMA building at the centre. The street buildings here, including the old mill, retain a character and scale unique to their location. It is to be hoped that when development eventually takes place here that the form, massing and scale will be retained whether the redevelopment is of a traditional or contemporary design. Elsewhere it would be worthwhile preparing an inventory of your various derelict and disused sites in the village.

Residential Areas:

The Radharc na hAbhainn housing scheme at Sand Quay has a nice design in harmony with its location and a very attractive pastel colour scheme. On the Carrigafoyle Road a number of housing areas were admired many with very well presented residences and gardens. Many of these schemes would benefit from the addition of a name sign.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Your village contains some very attractive approach roads. The Ballybunion entrance has some very fine stone built walls enclosing linear planted grassed verge parks with a backdrop of mature vegetation descending sown to Sand Quay. Cobble lock footpaths at the village cross area look very well but along Quay Street some footpaths were very weedy especially around the base of ESB poles. The Bridge was excellent, brightly painted with a colourful array of hanging baskets on display. Well done on this presentation.

General Impression:

Ballylongford is a very attractive village located on a scenic area on the Shannon Estuary. The recent works carried out by Tidy Towns volunteers has made an important contribution to its image particularly by the bridge at the village centre.