

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KINSALE**
County : **CORK**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-06-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	37
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	20
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	18	18
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	239	230

Kinsale, Co Cork

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

This has been remarkable. The fund-raising activities, the co-operative initiatives with other bodies, the inauguration of a constructive 3 Year Plan and the wholehearted embracing of the relatively new WildLife category, demonstrate that the entrepreneurial flair of this Committee has not diminished. (Please, in future years, supply a map on which the street names and the names of residential estates are marked - it is surprising how many local people are unable to answer requests for directions!)

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The candid way in which the Committee has listed derelict sites is exemplary, and shows that the problem is being addressed; O'Connell Street is the most obvious area. The numerous older buildings of merit will not be enumerated once again, but this does not mean that they have not been very favourably noted. The new Esso garage is of admirably discreet design, the Kent Gallery is a stylish addition and the Social Welfare Building is neat. On the adverse side, the Market House does require whitewashing. The Convent frontage remains rather drably out of keeping with other important buildings and frontages like Barry's Foodstore do not help. PVC glazing-bars on upper windows of older buildings - including the back of Actons Hotel - have become too prevalent. The shopfronts proposed by the Committee have been entered for awards in two categories (except Mother Hubbards, which was in the course of refurbishment and could not be fairly judged).

LANDSCAPING

The projects seen were impressive, particularly the Long Quay landscaping, with its variety of planting, sturdy fencing and well-painted seats. Floral decorations, both public and private, were tasteful as usual throughout the town. (One that must be picked out is the choice of colour in a series of window-boxes complementing the painted frontages of two houses in an un-named street near the Market House: wonderful!). The general management of open grass spaces, wooded areas and shrubberies disclosed careful work resulting from considerable experience.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The two areas specially designated - in the valley between the Cork road and Scilly, and at the very extensive Commogue marsh (a considerable distance out of town) - seem to be first rate choices. In time, signboards detailing the flora and fauna might be erected for the information of visitors.

LITTER CONTROL

Very good. Litter removal was in fact noted on the day of adjudication. Election posters were entirely absent. An unusual - for Kinsale - sprinkling of litter was seen near a shop in an upper estate.

TIDINESS

The virtual absence of obtrusive projecting signs and also of poles and wirescapes in the town centre is a huge advantage. There was some kerbside weed in several upper areas; and on some outskirts where verges had been poisoned the dead brown weeds were as unsightly as the growing weeds. The town centre was very tidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The use of colour in houses old and new, and the reflecting of traditional motifs such as dormers and hung slates in recently-completed schemes, must again be praised. New apartments in Upper OConnell Street respect the existing built environment in a very pleasing way. Some charming terraces were noted in Scilly, with gardens rambling over boundaries. Abbeyview is promising - at present some householders do not seem too troubled about providing an attractive frontage, in contrast to the majority.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

New paving, kerbing and new water channels were seen in a number of places. In spite of the few derelict sites, unsightly backs and unpainted gables are not prevalent in Kinsale. There is much ongoing development in many parts of the town, especially on higher ground, but this does not overly detract from the general sense of good planning. The quayside car-park is well kept. (Undoubtedly this site remains a disappointment; a significant architectural feature is badly needed here because of its central position and its importance as a first view of the town centre).

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A town of unique quality, kept this way because of the dedication of so many of its citizens.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (7/8/97)

The town of Kinsale with its wealth of historical and architectural heritage was, as usual, presented to a high standard on second adjudication day. The buildings in the town generally looked very fresh and colourful with an abundance of floral displays in the form of hanging baskets and window boxes. However, one or two areas of detail still need attention, in particular the old Market House in its prominent location as one travels through the centre of the town which badly needs a fresh coat of paint as it is extremely flaky. St Multose Church is quite charming and the stone veterinary clinic was simply presented. The Guardwell Homes were very fresh and had some attractive hanging baskets and window boxes. Traffic control/management in the centre of the town seems to be a problem and is an area which needs to be tackled.