

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CAHIRCIVEEN**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	26	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	25	26
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	190	188

Cahirciveen, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator notes that just 25 people are working on your Committee. This is low considering the size of the town. Your co-operation with FAS, ACARD and Kerry County Council is as you have seen, essential for progress in Competition. Progress in the competition will be dependent on everyone working towards the same ends. With this in mind you should prepare a "3 /5 Year rolling Tidy Towns Work Programme". This programme should have the support of the community, local groups, the County Council and other agencies. It would therefore guide your Tidy Towns actions for the next three to five years. The Work Programme should detail the Tidy Towns objectives to be achieved by your committee in the years ahead. The preparation of such a Plan which is updated annually is now an important aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition. The new Tidy towns Handbook, which has been issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government to all Tidy Towns Committees, is a highly useful document which will be a great help both to established Tidy Towns Committees and to all new entrants. It is divided into a series of seven Action Sheets which together cover all aspects of the Competition. It might be most useful for a committee to run a series of seminar evenings based on the contents of this Tidy Towns Handbook.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

A lot of new development work was noted in Cahirciveen and the new Education Centre is significant project. The new Car Park is a welcome development, however the crashed car should be removed. The corrugated iron roof should be painted as it has become rusty. The new lighting projects are noted. The Cahirciveen Hospital was well presented as was the attractive landscaping in front of the building. The stone walls on the Waterville approach are quite a feature of the town, and the new pavements were being laid on the day of adjudication. Some of the buildings on Main Street are in need of re-painting; just gable walls also need attention in some cases. The area of the Pier is somewhat untidy and improvements in presentation are needed here. The old Barracks Heritage Centre again looked well but the building will need re-painting in a year or so. Presumably the old Diesel Railway engine will be part of the display in time. The door of the Courthouse is in need of re-painting, and a general tidying up of the Mart area is necessary.

LANDSCAPING

Your oak tree planting project is noted. New flower beds in various locations add a nice splash of colour. At the eastern end of the town the Daniel O'Connell Park presentation was not up to standard and a lot of weed growth was noted here. However the greatest disappointment of all was the condition of the Town Park by the road bridge over the river. Weed growth has taken over in serious way. Paths are becoming covered in weed and the stone steps areas are becoming covered in. Much litter was noted in this area also. This is an area visited by many

visitors because of the proximity of the Heritage Centre, and it must be given your most urgent attention. Weed growth at kerbs was noted in the fair Green which otherwise looked well.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Both parks are potentially important for wildlife. Your river area is attractive and important also for wildlife. Do try to develop further amenities which will encourage wildlife to your area. Your first step however is to identify the species which inhabit any such areas. Wildlife can be encouraged by the planting of native berry producing trees and shrubs. The provision of bird and bat roosts and nesting sites in any old buildings might also be considered by your Committee. Make sure that any wildlife areas to which the public have access are properly signposted. Remember the access needs of people with disabilities. The development of these amenity walks and nature trails will add greatly to your area in the years ahead. Has your Committee considered the erection of some information plaques about the wildlife to be seen in the area?

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control on adjudication day was not particularly good. Litter was noted in the Main Street, on the approach to the Pier, in the Town Park, in Bridge Street, and in the Daniel O'Connell Park.

TIDINESS

There are general problem of small untidy open spaces where grass and weed growth tend to take over. Can you try and have these small areas landscaped even on a temporary basis. Very long grass by the stone wall where the Racecourse Road met the Killorglin Road was noted.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Watch out for boundary walls that are in need of painting. Some gable walls also need attention for instance on Valentia Road. Marian Place was well presented with many colourful and mature gardens. Re-painting is required of a number of properties in Bridge Street. Work is needed on the public grass areas by the Woodbrook estate - for example around the ESB sub-station. Much new housing development was noted on the Rocky Road, and hopefully attractive landscaped gardens will be developed in time.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Waterville approach as well presented as was the approach from Killorglin. The Rock Road area needs a lot of attention as weed growth is getting out of hand in several areas here. The approach road from over the river bridge needs attention in terms of bank trimming. When you are dealing with your approach roads please keep in mind the needs of wildlife, and do not cut during nesting time.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Cahirciveen is a large town for you to handle but you have made good progress in recent years. Watch out for the litter issue and the presentation of the Town Park. Well done to all involved in your work.