

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CEANN TRAGHA**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	26
The Built Environment	40	25	24
Landscaping	40	22	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	15
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	20	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	181	174

Ceann Tra, County Kerry.

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The documentation submitted with the entry was very comprehensive. The colour photographs were most useful during adjudication in early July. The committee is obviously extremely active and have undertaken a heavy work programme for the Competition this year. The Committee's involvement with FAS and other agencies is welcomed; it is only through such co-operation that constructive results can be achieved.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The new walls at the School and the car park look well as does the beach-side walk. This is well constructed and will be welcomed by the many visitors to Ceann Tra each year. At the School the gates and railings at the entrance should be painted - possibly matt black. The new bridge over the stream will help to improve access to that area. Work on the slipway contributes in an important way to the amenity value of the area. The Hall is once again very well presented. Some gable walls require painting. Business premises are well presented and make an imaginative use of strong colours. The village has a strong sense of character. The built environment in Ceann Tra is what contributes in a significant way to the overall character of your place. This includes the buildings, public areas, streets, side lanes and car parks. Any potential threat to any one of these threatens in a serious way the overall character of your town. Therefore the standard of even the smallest improvements in your town must be in keeping with the overall character of the area. Some of the threats could include the use of PVC windows instead of timber ones especially in historic buildings, the use of varnished timber instead of paintwork and the removal of traditional plaster on originally plastered stone buildings.

LANDSCAPING

The main landscaped area in the centre of the village looked well. As suggested last year, can you try and develop further incidental small landscaped areas in Ceann Tra.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Committee have started to do good work in regard to the wildlife potential of the area - the bird boxes are excellent. Do try and develop further amenities which will encourage wildlife to your area. The 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. In terms of access to remember the needs of people with disabilities. The development of the amenity walks which you have in hand, and nature trails will add greatly to your area in the years ahead.

Has the Committee considered the erection of some information plaques about the wildlife to be seen in the area ? The Blue Flag beach was well presented. The car park would be improved if surfaced.

LITTER CONTROL

Some litter was noted outside the Caravan Park entrance at the beach and in the car park in the village centre.

TIDINESS

At the beach the timber fencing along the side of the Caravan Park should be painted matt black. Goods are being displayed on the pathway near the telephone box. This looks untidy and may cause difficulty for the disabled. Can you take some action on this for next year please? Weed growth was evident behind the low walls inside the car park as well as weed growth on the car park surface.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private houses generally are well presented and use good colours. The new stone fronted property looks especially well. The row of cottages on the left hand side on the Dingle approach road are very well presented and add a lot of character to that part of the village. The holiday cottages off An Bothar Ard are well presented.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the Dingle approach weed growth was noted at the base of the low stone wall. On the Sleah Head and An Bothar Ard approach roads the Fuchsia hedges have been cut back rather harshly. When cutting the hedges and banks on your approach roads do please keep in mind the needs of wildlife. Cutting should not be done too harshly, and avoid cutting of any sort during the bedding season.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Ceann Tra is an impressive Tidy Towns Competitor where you have a very tight focus on what you need to do in the immediate future. Do not lose sight of the importance of long term planning - this is especially important when you are working with other Agencies. Well done to all those involved!