

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **DINGLE**  
County : **KERRY**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	36
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>204</b>

## Dingle, County Kerry

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Your working Committee of 7 people is very small for a town the size of Dingle. However despite this you have achieved very good results to date in the Tidy Towns Competition. Your continued close involvement with FAS, Kerry County Council and the Tourist Council is essential. The schools litter programme is another very important part of your work and this is bringing the desired benefits to the town. 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 will 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**

There is much that one could write about the built environment of Dingle. The buildings of Dingle are to a great extent very well presented. Indeed it is a joy to walk around Dingle where so much care and attention is given to the presentation of both business and private buildings. The bold use of strong colours in Dingle is very effective and strongly welcomed by this adjudicator. The re-painted ice plant is a great improvement, and the new stone walls on the Conor Pass road look well. However weed growth at the base of these walls was noted and this detracts greatly from the overall effect of the natural stone. Your problem of tracing ownership of derelict sites is noted. Your Committee is aware of the difficulty so no doubt you will make progress with these properties as soon as possible. Good stone work was noted at the GAA premises. The Craft Village is an excellent concept which is being extremely well maintained. The Irish/English name plates for streets are very effective and make an adjudicator's life much easier ! The large derelict building in John Street must surely have some productive future use ? Many fine shop fronts were noted during adjudication and the strong use of colour is very effective. There are many projecting signs. Under normal circumstances these might not be acceptable. However due to their design and context many of them work well. However projecting signs should not be encouraged for the future in Dingle. The Dingle Hospital is in need of painting. The new Tourist Information Office is a fine building in a good location. At the Library the boundary wall to the footpath should be painted. St. Mary's Church, Grotto and nearby School are all very well presented. At the de Barra premises the two murals are fine features of that bit of

streetscape. The built environment in your town 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 new flower beds on the main road in from Killarney are maturing well. At the entrance to the Marina Car Park the sculpture is intriguing and effective. Can you try to develop incidental smaller landscaped areas in the town, perhaps even on a temporary basis where a site is awaiting development ? These would compliment the excellent landscaping which you have carried out to date.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The problems with the Town Park are noted and understood. Your river area is potentially an attractive and important area 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 ? The river which runs through the town is an unusual feature. However the visual impact is being destroyed by the quantity of litter and cans noted in this river especially at Pooka's Lane and Bridge Street. It is noted that small trout are present in part of this river. Try to develop the importance of this stream in terms of visual amenity. The Milltown River also has potential and is important for sea-birds.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control in general is quite good for a town of the size of Dingle. However problems were noted in the river running through the town, referred to above. Litter was noted also in some of the back lanes. Litter was also evident in the Marina Car Park.

## **TIDINESS**

On the road to the Skellig hotel quite close to the main road there is an open storage space which is quite untidy. On adjudication day many beer barrels were stored in this area. On the Spa Road a very untidy open area was noted on the left. The chain link fencing here is

damaged, and an abandoned car was noted inside. Can this area be screened from public view? At the Church of Ireland Church the gate needs to be repaired and painted. The Calvary on the Mall needs repainting. In some of the side lanes look out for grass and weed growth at the base of walls.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

At the Grove some boundary walls require re-painting. Very good landscaping and presentation was noted at Marian Park. Some excellent gardens were also noted in John Street. At Ashmount Terrace the attractive colour mix was very effective. Overall private houses were well presented, many of them having very good mature gardens.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

On your approach roads do take into account the needs of wildlife when you are cutting verges and banks. Do not cut at nesting time. It is also good practise not to cut too tightly in order to encourage further wildlife into these nesting and feeding areas. On the Conor Pass road cutting has been done on a basis which is in keeping with the above recommendations. On the Fheothanagh approach road the attractive low stone wall is visually spoilt by the quantity of weed and grass growing at the bottom of the wall.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

You have made excellent progress in Dingle, and well done to all involved. Your use of the Irish language is significant and adds greatly to the overall character of this very attractive colourful town.