

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KENMARE**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	32
General Impression	10	9	8
TOTAL MARK	300	253	246

Kenmare, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator would like to thank you for the comprehensive documentation provided with your Entry Form - 1999 Plan, "Towards a Better Kenmare" Plan and photographs. This year you have had the additional work involved in Entente Florale, and the adjudicator wishes Kenmare well in that Competition. It is very evident in Kenmare that there is community-wide support for your good work. It is obvious that Kenmare realises the true economic benefits for the town which derive from excellence in environmental presentation.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

It is hoped that the Market House will see sensitive and appropriate improvements in the not too distant future. It is a most interesting structure in a key location in the town. The work done on the AIB and D.J. Cremin premises looks well, and the work on the Garage/Furniture Store on the Killarney road is an improvement. By the day of adjudication the Randles property had been demolished, and the adjudicator hopes that there are appropriate and sensitive plans for this key site. The Bank of Ireland refurbishment plans are noted. At the Telecom premises a very attractive stone wall is an excellent feature. The Church and car park opposite are extremely well presented. At the Cumnor premises, the boundary wall and gate are in urgent need of repair and re-painting. Also the signs on the gate here could perhaps be rationalised. The two National School buildings are obviously freshly painted and are very crisp and the maintenance of grounds and landscaping is excellent. Has any consideration been given to improvement to the external appearance of the Library. As it is now it is rather dull and inspiring. The re-painting of the front railing in a strong bright colour would be an improvement. The Garda Station is a beautiful cut stone building with excellent landscaping, well maintained. In this area "The Lime Tree" is another property which looks really well. Henry Street is a most attractive street with stone-fronted buildings and a strong use of contrasting colours. This would make an excellent street for pedestrianisation at some time in the future. Just a few buildings in this street need re-painting. The Tourist Information Office/Courthouse building looks well in a most prominent location. Bridge Street looked really well. Main Street and the Square area also looked well on adjudication day. It is a pity that in the Square area that lovely buildings have to compete with many parked cars.

LANDSCAPING

There are many examples of excellence in landscaping, and the level of maintenance appears to be very good. The grounds of the Kenmare Bay Hotel are excellently landscaped, and the Pier Road is another area where good landscaping has been developed. Reen na Gros Park is a most important amenity and your work here this year is noted. In Main Street the trees here have matured very well and in The Square the many hanging baskets, tubs, and the large raised flower bed all add a

lot of colour and character to Kenmare. Bridge Street is an excellently landscaped and paved area. The enclosed park area in The Square is a haven of peace in the middle of a busy town, which is excellently presented.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your work under this heading has been noted. There are many areas in Kenmare town which are excellent for the encouragement of wildlife; Gros Park, the Pier Road area and the park area in the Square. However have you considered erecting some attractively designed information boards on the wildlife to be seen in the town.

LITTER CONTROL

Your Pilot project on litter control involving school children is noted and the adjudicator has seen the photographs from this exercise. Well done to everyone involved. While litter control was generally good, some small quantities of litter were noted on the Pier Road, on the Sneem approach, in Emmet Place and inside the GAA property entrance.

TIDINESS

An untidy area was seen on the Kilgarvan road opposite "The Lodge". The two trucks parked outside the RVR premises on the Sneem approach did not add to the appearance of this approach to Kenmare and the adjudicator wondered if they had been there for some time? There are still a number of projecting shop signs which are not all appropriate. These detract from the overall visual impression. Can you consider starting a campaign to replace some of these signs with traditional hand lettered flush mounted signs which will be much more appropriate, and which will enhance your street-scape. A number of retail premises are displaying goods on the pathway. This was noted throughout the town on adjudication day. This looks untidy and may cause difficulty for the disabled. Can you take some action on this for next year please? It is not acceptable in one of the leading Tidy Towns competitors in the country.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Most residential premises were presented to a very high standard. Premises which are especially appealing include "Rose Garden" and "Golf Links House" on the Kilgarvan road. The short row of cottages in Emmet Place are particularly attractive. Premises in Bridge Street also caught the eye.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads were impressive and a very high level of maintenance was noted. Some Speed Limit poles need to be painted, for example at the 40 MPH signs on the Sneem approach. The stone walls are a very strong feature of approach roads. Rationalisation is needed in at least three places in terms of finger-post signs. These include the Sneem Road/Killarney junction, at The Square by the

railings and over the road Bridge at the Castletownbere junction.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It was a joy to spend a considerable time in Kenmare during adjudication. Your planned approach to the presentation of the town is continuing to produce excellent results. The co-operation which you receive from many agencies is essential and the adjudicator offers sincere congratulations to all involved.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (13/08/99)

It gives one an astonishing sense of release to arrive in Kenmare and find that the two marching lines of top-heavy electricity standards, with their sky-obscuring tangle of wires, have disappeared, and that the two remarkable perspectives, the one ending in steeple and mountain, the other in mountain only, have been restored after so many years of agitation and criticism! Congratulations to all those who have been involved in this successful outcome of this campaign. Otherwise, Kenmare was looking smart and cheerful on a damp August day. It does seem churlish, after the splendid overall achievement, to allude to some relatively minor matters. The new terraces which echo the old in the side streets show that development is going along the right lines: the remaining half-demolished terrace should therefore be put out of its agony as soon as possible. Several untidy backs, especially where there are rusty corrugated-iron sheds in this neighbourhood, are also due for an onslaught. Clusters of confusing signs - public and private - at intersections and approach roads, are becoming a visual nuisance and should be dealt with: on the edge of Italian towns and villages, for example, a neat display of pointers with the name of each hotel, guest-house, shop etc etc satisfies the traveller and the provider of the service.