

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILGARVAN**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	26
The Built Environment	40	27	25
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	21	20
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	177	171

Kilgarvan, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Kilgarvan is an attractive town set in a beautiful area. The adjudicator is pleased to see that you are working closely with FAS and Kerry County Council. This close co-operation is the way forward. 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 your committee to run a series of seminar evenings based on the contents of this Tidy Towns Handbook.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The problem with the derelict house and the empty property is noted and it is hoped that you will be able to resolve these issues for 2000. The Church and grounds were well presented, as was the Community Centre. At the National School the boundary wall and gates / railings are in need of painting. Some properties in the town centre are in need of painting also. The Community Centre with its landscaping looked well and this property occupies a prominent position at the top of the small hill in the town.

LANDSCAPING

Your work at the eastern end of the town is noted. The hanging baskets and flower tubs add much character to the town. The use of hanging baskets and flower tubs in carefully selected places also add an interesting splash of colour to any town or village. However do make sure that this is not overdone. The landscaped area in front of the Community Centre looked very colourful on adjudication day.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your hedge trimming has been carefully done on your approach roads with the needs of wildlife in mind. 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 generally good. However litter was noted near the Community Centre and in a few other areas. The adjudicator is pleased to learn that new litter bins have been provided for Kilgarvan.

TIDINESS

A very untidy open area was noted opposite "Sandymount" on the Kenmare approach road. Watch out for long grass growth and weeds at the base of boundary walls with roads and streets. The green corrugated iron doors on the Kenmare approach road need attention. Also on this side of the town a pile of concrete blocks was noted near the Petrol Station and these should be removed, together with the long grass. At both burial grounds the grass is very long and needs regular cutting.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The new houses beside the Church look well but would be further improved with some landscaping and the painting of the gates matt black. St. Garvan's Terrace looked well and the landscaping in the Estate near the new Burial Ground was very colourful. On the Bantry road a very attractive white and red property was noted.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the Kenmare approach road the poles at the Speed Limit signs should be painted. The large gap in the fine stone wall in this area should be repaired. Near here there are some very attractive new iron gates and these should be painted a suitable bright colour. On the road into Kilgarvan from the Primary School the large corrugated iron roof below the road on the right should be painted grey, to blend it in.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Given the degree of local dedication to the Tidy Towns task Kilgarvan has the potential to do well in the competition provided that a planned and structured approach is taken. Well done to all involved.