

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KNIGHTSTOWN**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	36
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	33	31
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	9	8
TOTAL MARK	300	232	222

Knightstown, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It was a joy to adjudicate Knightstown on a warm day in early July when the very strong colours of the area were at their best. Your very hard working Committee of just ten people is approaching the Tidy Towns task in a very structured and planned way, and this is to be commended. Thank you for letting me have a copy of your 3 year Plan and all points in this document have been examined in the ground. Yes, I did indeed travel to the Island on the Car Ferry and it is an excellent service. The adjudicator notes that your Committee works with the National School and that you have a good working relationship with other bodies.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment is very well presented in Knightstown. The undergrounding of Telecom cables makes a big difference and it is to be hoped that ESB cabling can be treated in a similar way. Your work on the Clock Tower and weighbridge looks really well with a strong colour choice. Likewise the slate slab at the anchor looks well. The fine stone wall here with the natural wildflowers sets off the area to good effect. Fine stone walls are a special feature of Knightstown and further work like this should be encouraged. The area around the Youth Hostel is in need of a general tidy up. The work done on the Church of Ireland Church and grounds is most effective. It is now a most attractive feature of the village. Over a period of time could all the Light Keepers cottages be painted? 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 landscaping and grassed areas on the main road from Chapeltown look really well as does the new "Welcome" sign nearby. The planting at the Hospital is also attractive as is the low stone wall on the approach road, and the piece of red fencing. Other landscaped areas looked equally well.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The walk at the end of Jane Street will be an excellent feature when completed though it appears that work has slowed down. The adjudicator noted also that it appears that the concrete kerbs are not being set deep enough - many have fallen over. Also some of the paths

that are under development through the meadow area are becoming over grown. Fuchsia, Montbretia and Foxgloves are everywhere around the village and this adds much colour to the area. The Pitch and Putt Course is very well maintained and is an important amenity for local people and visitors alike. The presentation of the Promenade is superb. This is a most beautiful area along by the sea, and the adjudicator remembers this area before you started work here. Well done.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was exceptionally good on adjudication day. This is not easy to achieve with so much traffic passing through.

TIDINESS

The Ferry Slip area is being very well maintained. Building work at Moriarty's was underway at the time of adjudication. The pile of sand near the bottom of Market Street should be removed. A similar pile was noted in Peter Street. At least one Election Poster was noted and posters should be down by now.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

White walls are a feature of a number of private houses and generally private houses were excellently maintained. Some road boundary walls here and there are in need of a painting touch-up.

ROADS, STREET AND BACK AREAS

The bilingual street signs are effective. In general all approach roads looked well on adjudication day. They had a "controlled wildness" which was just right for Knightstown. This approach also is helpful to the development of wildlife.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Knightstown is a most beautiful and very well maintained village. Well done to everyone who has made such a commitment to achieving and maintaining such a high standard throughout the village.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (13/08/99)

This was this adjudicator's first visit to Valentia Island for many years. Knightstown is almost unrecognisable it is so greatly improved. The fabric of the townscape is of such an enduringly high quality that it would be difficult for it to deteriorate totally, but thankfully the opposite has happened due to the work of this Committee, individual residents and official bodies. The ducting of cables has had an enormous effect, and further ducting is looked forward to. The comments of the first adjudicator are agreed with - many points of relatively minor importance may seem to have been made, but this is always the case at the top end of the competition where all details are of significance. (Another: the Coffee Shop was photographed for consideration for the relevant award - would it not be an advantage to have a nice piece of traditional

signwriting across the fascia?) In fact, the increase in marks is greater than is usual at this level. Congratulations to all those involved in the work.