

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SNEEM**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 10-07-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	25
Litter Control	40	34	35
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	239	236

Sneem, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator would like to thank you for the comprehensive documentation submitted with your Entry Form. The 1994-1999 Environmental Plan for Sneem is a most progressive document, and it is good to see that some progress is being made on its implementation. The involvement of the Sneem FAS Scheme is obviously of critical importance to your work. Once again the adjudicator hopes that the pedestrian route by the road bridge will be completed as planned as quickly as possible. As it is the pedestrian route is an excellent development.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The painting programme for the old Folks houses is noted. On the approach from Waterville the concrete shed on the left in the field should be painted, so as to blend it into the landscape. At the bridge over the river the new pedestrian walk is an excellent feature which provides such excellent views downstream. It is to be hoped that this project can be completed as originally planned, in the not too distant future. The derelict cottage opposite the school appears to be an interesting building and it would be good to see it restored. The Garda Station is most attractive in its brave new colour scheme which is most effective. Work was in progress on the boundary walls at the time of adjudication. At the G.A.A. Club property the Basketball uprights are now rusting and look unattractive, and at the Ring Ballroom the high level timberwork needs to be replaced and painted. The use of very strong colours is an excellent feature of Sneem and adds much to its overall character. There are some buildings at the back of the main streets which are in need of urgent attention. Some of these are of stone and might make very good restoration projects. Christian's Foodstore is excellently presented and the use of advertising signs which are flush with front and side walls was especially noted.

LANDSCAPING

One of the most interesting aspects of Sneem is the various monuments on display in the Square. These add much character and political and historical interest to this area. The plaque to a former President of Ireland is now difficult to read and needs some restoration work. Very attractive mature trees and landscaping was noted at the School on the Waterville approach road. The school building itself was excellently presented. The Catholic Church and grounds and mature trees just outside looked very well. Both main green areas were excellently presented and the display of colour on adjudication day was most appealing. The area with the most interesting built stone features by the river looked well on adjudication day. Overall Sneem is a village that has made really good use of planting to enhance the built environment. A special achievement is how well the artificial landscaping blends into the natural landscape.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Sneem demonstrates so well so much of what is best practice in presentation for wildlife. Your nesting boxes have been noted in various locations. The wildlife area in the garden near the riverbank is an excellent concept. New planting was noted in a number of areas and both greens were very colourful and beautifully presented. Like a previous adjudicator this adjudicator wonders if railings are really necessary around the greens.

LITTER CONTROL

On quick general examination of Sneem it appeared to have excellent litter control. Unfortunately, closer more detailed examination revealed a different situation. A large amount of litter was noted in various parts of the village - near the "The Takeaway" in North Square, the Bottle Bank area, near the Post Office, and by the Church Gates. This is not expected in a village which plays such an important role in the Tidy Towns Competition.

TIDINESS

The adjudicator notes the action which you have been taking on illegal dumping. On the Waterville approach some field gates might be painted a bright colour. 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. An old tractor wheel near the GAA property should be removed. This adjudicator commented two years ago on the extent of retail displays on pavements. Now the situation is so much worse. In one case such displays are taking up four valuable street parking spaces. In another instance a retail outlet appears to have 8 displays on the pavement/road. There are number of other examples. This is a difficulty that you must get under control by a co-operative approach between all retailers and the Tidy Towns Committee. Such displays and bill-boards considerably lower the tone and visual appeal of the village. Such excesses are more appropriate to a resort in a Mediterranean country rather than in a village which is a former National Tidy Towns Winner and consistent good performer in this Competition. A very untidy area opposite the Texaco Station was noted. Here sand/gravel, timber pallets and a derelict car were noted. There are derelict cars in a few locations in Sneem which need continued attention. The adjudicator is aware that you are working on this. A little further out on the Kenmare road there is another untidy open space on the left with yet another abandoned car.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Private houses were very well presented. Houses were nicely painted and most having very attractively presented gardens. Watch out for boundary walls which need painting in a few cases. At one property on the Waterville approach road a set of gates need to be re-erected. On the Kenmare approach road there were some really excellent presentations. Here the adjudicator noted a number of beautifully

landscaped gardens where the landscaping blended into the natural environment in a truly excellent way.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads were very well maintained and presented. The combination of low stone walls and hedging/planting is very effective. In this way your approach roads have also met the needs of wildlife in that feeding and nesting opportunities are provided in the many small trees and planted areas.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Sneem is a very impressive village where the evidence of co-operation is to be found in so many places. Increased co-operation will help to overcome some of the outstanding difficulties which remain. Congratulations to the many people who have contributed so much to the improvement of the village.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (13/08/99)

The significant increase in marks at the top end of the competition is fully justified. Work on the Garda station was almost complete on second adjudication day - it is going to be a fine addition to the village. The new footbridge is of a remarkably imaginative design - it is hoped that it will be possible to use it before long. This is the final year of the 5-Year Improvement Plan: when sending your documentation for next year, please include a note assessing how well you feel the plan has met its objectives. A huge amount of work has been done - congratulations to the Development Co-Operative and to all individuals who have helped.