

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TARBERT**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-99

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	216	213

Tarbert, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for returning the completed entry form and attached town map. You are to be commended on your ability to generate such funding from so many sources. This will enable you to plan more ambitiously for the future. You need to ensure that the Fás work is matched by the community involvement. The true spirit of tidy towns is anchored in community endeavour and this is the best way of achieving high awards. The Fás workers have done well and the work of previous years - especially with tree planting is now paying dividends. It was also noticed that window boxes are being watered on a regular basis, with a special water container for same.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

You have scored well in this section and the many public buildings presented to a high standard reflect great credit to those concerned. The Church and boundary wall in particular was very well presented and project a great image of neatness. Both schools are well presented again this year, also the ESSO Station, Fire Station, Ferry House Hostel, are all well presented. The Garda Station is a let down, together with the adjacent house. The Community Centre would benefit from painting.

LANDSCAPING

The square is your strong point here and the great display of colour through freshly painted houses, flower tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes combine to give an overall attractive score. The grotto is superb and the tree planting here has been highly successful. You should now consider extending the tree planting to other streets not yet planted. The individual effort is good here also, and many private houses have excellent landscaped gardens. There are still many small open spaces that have potential for further landscaping - but these should only be developed if you can assure energy for maintenance.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

You have potential for high marks in this section because of your estuarial location. The bird display board on the way to the ferry could be extended to other areas - your efforts with the woodland walk are acknowledged and this is also contributing to wildlife.

LITTER CONTROL

There is an obvious concerned effort in Tarbert to control litter. The approach roads, and in particular the square were almost totally free of litter. This is a commendable result for such a large area with such a high traffic throughout and many visitors. There is an apparent improvement on last year.

TIDINESS

Well done again this year on your weed spraying programme. For the most part gutters were free of weed growth. You have a small problem with overgrowth on the Glin approach. Other areas of untidiness relate to some dereliction, unattended open spaces, poor boundary walls and unpainted farm gates. As your marks are now climbing your expected standard is also rising.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Housing estates are well presented and some individual houses excel. The new landscaping at Doonard Crescent should be completed and made ready for 2000. Some road signs i.e. the Bridewell sign on the Glin approach, the road signs opposite the Bridewell need to be cleaned. This should be done by yourselves if the Council cannot do it. The standard of housing - both individual and terraced is very good throughout. Long term you should aim to have the service wires put underground - similar to Castleisland.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Glin approach needs improvement, but other approaches are good. The long approach from the Ferry is demanding of maintenance and the stone work along here is commendable. You have an unsightly rusty corrugated roof in view as you approach from the Ferry - this is a first impression from many visitors, so you might tackle it for next year. However, in general the standard of streets and back lanes is good. Some road surface is below standard e.g. on the way up to Primary School and in the area between freshly painted boundary walls and the road side i.e. the Church, are positive ways of raising your marks in this section.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The town looked really well on adjudication day. Your strong point is in the great number of flowers, shrubs and trees you attend to. You are also endowed with a most attractive setting and many historic landmarks. You also have some very attractive wild growth on the approach roads that you should protect. Stay with your development plan and bring the community with you in your endeavours. Good luck for 2000.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (14/08/99)

The small increase in marks is in fact very significant at the critical upper end of the competition. Additional marks were given where important advances had been made. In spite of excellent new paving and some good surfaces, the standard of roads and paths is very variable and some need urgent attention from the Local Authority. Litter control, while admirable on the day of first adjudication, had fallen back somewhat on the second - it is, unfortunately, a problem which requires perennial vigilance. The Tarbert House Woodland Walk is a welcome and imaginative addition to the neighbourhood; would it be in order to consider reinstatement and restocking of the remarkable 3-acre walled garden as a future project? Congratulations to the Development Association for its initiative and hard work in many areas of activity.