

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **TRALEE**  
County : **KERRY**  
Category : **F**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 13-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	29	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>197</b>

## **T Tralee, County Kerry**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the completed questionnaire, street map and a copy of the Tralee Urban District Council proposed Litter Abatement Action Plan. Just something to note for future competitions. There are a myriad of housing developments both old, new and in the process of completion in Tralee and its surrounding area. I would suggest that the sketch map be a little more detailed to make it that bit easier for the adjudicator. The committee has worked admirably to involve all sections of the wider Tralee community to help the cause of Tidy Towns. It certainly seems to be paying dividends as the town looked remarkably well on what was a very busy day. It was good to note that the ongoing cooperation between the committee and statutory bodies is stronger than ever.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Tralee is a town that has a mix of architectural styles. Some are old, some comparatively new and some are in the process of completion. Considering the size of the town it was good to see that all but a few blended to give some very attractive streetscapes. Many older premises have been refurbished and have retained the old type features including traditional type signage. At this juncture I would like to congratulate the large number of business premises that have used bilingual signage. In a town of the size of Tralee there are bound to be problems with dereliction and some of the areas mentioned in last year's detailed report have made little progress. I would encourage the committee to keep addressing the issue and to try to find positive solutions to the problem. Even if there were one or two improvements by the time next year's competition comes around your efforts will not be for nought. The following are a cross section of premises commercial, public and private that impressed this adjudicator. Johnstons Marina Hotel with its unique thatch feature is an addition to the Dingle Road exit. The Munster Bar on Ballymullen Road is an example of a well maintained premises with colourful flower boxes and troughs. Vales Sportsfield Bar near Austin Stack Park is an example of what a traditional town pub should be like. The said Austin Stack Park and adjoining Kerry County Board premises were both well presented. Gentleman's Corner, Jess McCarthys, and O'hAonghasa Teach Taibhairne on Castle Street are examples of premises that have made great efforts to retain traditional frontages. St Johns Church and the Presentation Convent looked well as did the Vocational Education Authority HQ which is a fine old Georgian structure. There were some very fine private residences to be seen. Most notable among these was a row of well preserved houses on Moyderwell Road. The three most recognisable buildings in Tralee - the Ashe Memorial Hall, The Aqua Dome and Siamsa Tire were

all well maintained. On the outskirts of the town Ballyingarry House Hotel, which had a resplendent array of flowers, and Ballygowan House on the Killarney Road both deserve mention. The Industrial Estate area and Tralee Institute of Technology on the Clash Road also deserve praise for the manner in which they have been kept. Kerry County Offices are impressive as one exits to Killarney. Finally the Public Toilets are the best example of their kind that this adjudicator has encountered in his travels and are a credit to whoever is responsible for their upkeep. It is important to accentuate the positive aspects in this category, the negative issues i.e. dereliction will have to be tackled in conjunction with the Urban District Council and other relevant statutory bodies.

## **LANDSCAPING**

As was the case in the last number of years the standard in this category is improving all the time. The Town Park and Pairc an Phiarsaigh were excellent with the rose beds in full bloom. The centre of the town was also very colourful with individual premises displaying hanging baskets, flower boxes and troughs. Individual housing areas such as the new Mount Hawk estate had very nice practical planting arrangements at entrances.

The trees on Dan Spring Road are now maturing and providing a camouflage along that stretch. The tree planting, which indeed is very effective, on both Killeen road and Lohercnonn was noted.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Again the selective cutting programme being undertaken by the UDC in the Town Park is something to be welcomed. As the Town Park is a natural habitat for a varied species of wildlife, programmes should be undertaken in conjunction with local schools to highlight different aspects.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There was very little litter to be seen on what was a very busy day in Tralee. Some estates like Mitchell Crescent have major problems with litter but overall the standard was very good for a town of its size. It may or may not have been done already but copies of the excellent litter abatement plan should be circulated to representatives of both the business community and local residents associations.

## **TIDINESS**

The standard in this category was mixed. The centre of town around the Mall, Castle Street, Ashe Street and Denny Street was quite tidy with side lanes and back areas well maintained and free of weed growth. In the outlying areas there was weed growth at kerb sides and at the base of walls but I am

aware that measure are being taken to redress this situation. At present there are a number of new housing developments in various parts of the town but unfortunately this has its down side because of messy sites and the proliferation of auctioneers hoardings. On the Ballyheigue Road there are glaring examples of the latter.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The adjudicator tried to get to examine a cross section of the large number of housing developments that exist in Tralee. Ard Na Sidhe and Cloch anOghar are two new developments on the Ballyheigue road that deserve mention. Old established areas such as O'Rahilly Villas and Pairc Ui Cathaill on the Strand Road were in very good condition. St Johns Park was once again a credit to it residents. The large Balloonagh and Mount Close areas, allowance made for graffiti on boundary walls, were for the most part well presented with good green areas. Ashgrove Estate on the back road from Blennerville also deserves mention as does Gleann an Li and Carrigeendaniel on the Ballyheigue Road. Unfortunately there was one estate in the Boherboy area which was in a pretty run down condition with a number of boarded up houses and litter strewn around the place. It is very unfair on the good citizens of this area that the tone of the place should be lowered by people who don't care.

## **ROADS,STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

As was the case last year most approach roads had verges and hedgerows cut back appropriately. The Dingle Road had too much weed growth at the base of the wall on the banks of the River Lee. The signage for the most part was presentable although there were a few signs on the Killorglin Road that were obscured by hedgerows. The Killarney Road was very impressive with mature trees and some fine residences.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Tralee is improving each year, the streetscape in the centre of the town is impressive. The Committee is aware of problem issues and measures are being taken in conjunction with the town authority to try to address them.