

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KING'S ISLAND**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 17-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	--
The Built Environment	40	27	--
Landscaping	40	26	--
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	--
Litter Control	40	26	--
Tidiness	20	14	--
Residential Areas	30	24	--
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	--
General Impression	10	7	--
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>--</b>

## **Kings Island, Limerick City**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for your detailed submission and comprehensive map of the Kings Island area of Limerick. This historic part of Limerick city is welcome to the Tidy Towns Competition for the first time as an urban village entrant and let's hope that you have much success in the years ahead. Having traversed the designated area on foot on a couple of occasions to get a feel for the place, I can in all honesty say, that aside from its historical significance to Limerick, this is an area that has great character and soul. It has the potential to do very well in the competition in years to come. The committee has obviously built up an excellent relationship with the various local residents associations, partners in development such as Limerick Corporation, Shannon Development, FAS and the PAUL Partnership. Even though the Committee is part of the St Mary's Integrated Development Programme I suggest that a 2 year Tidy Towns Plan be put in place prior to next year's competition. The message of Tidy Towns can be conveyed to residents via the excellent "Parish News"

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

No two villages or towns are alike in shape, size, history, and traditions. Most were built to service a local area and in that sense were seen as purely functional as distinct from historical or aesthetic. Kings Island differs in that its buildings and streetscapes have a strong historical relevance and depict different eras of Limerick's rich history. It is important when examining standards in this category that one bears in mind the presentation of buildings, whether they be public, commercial, private or indeed heritage, as they exist today. That being said, one also has to be sensitive to major changes that have taking place in this part of the City over the last number of years. It could be easily argued that Nicholas Street is at present blighted by dereliction but the proliferation of sold signs suggest that it will become part of an urban renewal scheme in the near future. This may no bad thing if the results are similar to Johns Street and Mungret Street area. This advent of the new throughway leading to the beautiful Abbey Bridge has opened up an area which was previously not very visible to the casual passer-by. The result is that areas such as Lee Estate and Assumpta Park are far more visible and for the most part were presented to a very high standard. The well maintained red brick house of Exchange Street and Bishop Street, just to mention a few, are far more accessible than before. That in it itself is a good thing as these are places that are synonymous with the history of the Parish. At present there are a number of unsightly sites dotted around

the area as a result of ongoing development work. Hopefully these will be cleaned up when work has been completed. Both King Johns Castle and the Bishops Palace, in the throes of refurbishment, were presented very well. It was also noticeable that immediate areas adjacent to these buildings were kept very tidy. St. Mary's Church, Presbytery, School and parking area were in excellent condition. St. Mary's Cathedral and The Villiers Alms Home with its lovely grounds deserve mention and one cannot omit the Old Walls of Limerick, which are seen at their best at night. St Mary's Credit Union, Triple Crown Bar, Treacy's Newsagents, Barry's Traditional Shopfront and The Castle Lane Tavern are some of the commercial buildings that looked well on adjudication day.

## **LANDSCAPING**

The standard in this category was quite good with excellent planting arrangements to be seen especially on the new through road at the junction of Assumpta Park and The Abbey Bridge. Some very nice planting arrangements were seen at the roundabout near Island Road.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Nature and wildlife is not solely confined to the countryside. Many wildlife habitats are to be seen in or adjoining villages and towns especially if there is a river close by. Kings Island, given its location with the Shannon on one side and the Abbey River bounding on three sides, is an ideal location for a number of wildlife projects. The Committee should play a role in informing residents of areas within the Kings Island district of the value of nature conservation to the community. A wildlife programme should be included as part of a work plan to be submitted with next year's application. Advice should be sought from the appropriate person within the Corporation. Also there are probably a number of local nature conservationists who would have an in-depth knowledge of local wildlife habitats. It is also a good idea to involve children from various schools and indeed youth clubs. Young people, when properly motivated contribute in a very positive manner to such undertakings especially if given credit for their input.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

The adjudicator is aware that it is difficult to get the message of Anti Litter across in an area so big and diverse. There was evidence of too much litter in a number of areas especially in Athlunkard Street also in a number of back areas of Verdant Place and Church Street. It is important that resident's associations are encouraged to get the message of litter control across to local residents as in the long run it benefits their immediate area. The standard varied in some of the larger housing estates, some very

good some not so good. I expect that the standard will even out as the "village" progresses in the competition.

## **TIDINESS**

Again the standard in this section was a little varied but overall it was quite good for a first time entrant. The Committee will have to liaise with both the Corporation and local residents to put in place some arrangement to tackle issues such as proper control of weed growth and to make sure that litter receptacles are placed at strategic points in the area. As was the case in the litter section some areas had a lot of weed growth while other areas had taken it upon themselves to control the problem by having regular cleanups. As a result of the new road construction, there are a number of unsightly rubble mounds, these are the responsibility of the Corporation and should be cleared up as soon as possible.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The standard in this category was very good even allowing for the fact that there are so many old and not so old housing schemes in the area. The opening of the new road has made Kings Island more accessible than before and local residents have taken it upon themselves to show off their areas in a positive light. The old established residential area encompassing Bishop Street, St Peters Street, Island View Terrace and the uniquely named St Peters Cell looked very well. This was complemented by newer developments such as Athlunkard Court. The Lee Estate was in good condition and the green areas were cut and cleaned. Assumpta Park off the Island Road had some beautifully kept residences especially one with a miniature Grotto of Our Lady. The stretch down near the Island Field was a little mixed and wasn't helped by the bad condition of footpaths and entrance roads. There were some nice residences to be seen in St Itas, St Senans and St Munchins Streets but in an overall context this immediate area will have to make a collective effort to improve.

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

The approach roads into the area are very different from those into small rural villages or large rural towns. These roads are through roads and as such are subjected to heavy traffic and parking. The five main approaches over Thomond Bridge, Matthew Bridge from Patrick Street, Baals Bridge from Broad Street, O'Dwyer Bridge from Corbally and the new and magnificent Abbey Bridge on to the Dublin Road were all in good condition. Maybe the bridges mentioned could be enhanced more by floral arrangements and forms of street sculpture. This is something to consider for the future.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

It is heartening to see such an historical inner city village such as Kings Island entering the Tidy Towns Competition. Since the advent of the new Abbey Bridge this part of Limerick has become more visible and one could not be but impressed at the efforts of both businesses and local residents to show of the area in the best possible fashion. There are problems that need to be addressed but the Committee will have to harness both the goodwill and the practical efforts of local people in trying to achieve even more in the years to come. I will look forward to seeing Kings Island do well in the competition in future years ahead.