

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KINSALE**  
County : **CORK**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 29-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	43
The Built Environment	40	36	35
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>250</b>

## Kinsale, County Cork

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The map and three-year plan submitted with the application form was very useful and informative. Continuing building and refurbishing programmes are assisting the already substantial wealth of buildings in Kinsale at present. The committee's work with statutory and voluntary organisations is commendable as with a town of this size and with such diverse interests co-operation is vital to the development and maintenance of the facilities. Work with residents associations is very good as every individual home at the end of the day contributes to the overall appearance of the town. The historic guided walk each morning from the tourist office is a great idea.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Kinsale is noted for its outstanding array of well kept business premises and shops making a walk through the streets interesting at every step of the way. The elimination of traffic completely from the streets would be welcome except of course for deliveries up to 10.00 am. There are so many well-appointed shop fronts that a list of those needing a little attention would be quite short. St. Multose church of Ireland adds lovely character to the town particularly because of its position. The two Catholic churches are also significant buildings and the lime tree lined approach to the Carmelite church is very attractive. The handrail of this hill is very considerate. The sidewall of Commercial Hall continues to look unattractive towards the carpark. As so many towns in Ireland have opened up areas behind buildings for carparking and laneways have developed as shopping areas, backs of buildings become exposed that hitherto were unseen. Some of these are not the most attractive sights and the carpark at the commercial hall is a typical example. This represents a challenge, which could be dealt with by tree planting, painting, or erection of screening material. The surface of the carpark raises much dust and a solid surface would help. Henry Woods old store is a fine building and it is hoped that this would take a new lease of life. The Garda station is pleasantly positioned but the opposite pink square council building with one dead tree outside is unsightly in its present state. The architectural advisory service is a very valuable facility and hopefully is well used. The redevelopments were noted. The Guardwell development is welcome.. The prospect of the relocation of the candle factory from its present site is welcome as this area offers so much more than its present use. Fisherman's Hall on Upper O'Connell Street is a fascinating building and on the same street the old Infants School deserves a little attention and recognition. Charles Fort is very tastefully presented with sober grassed areas and good car parking. The many well cared for residential

properties at Scilly are an attraction and the Spaniard is well presented occupying such a pivotal position.

## **LANDSCAPING**

The sea garden at St. Multose Church is a lovely feature although the gates were locked (11.30am). Street side container plantings are a wonderful feature of Kinsale and have been developed to a very fine level. The garden on the pier road at "Merlin's Keep" is spectacular and worth standing outside to view for minutes as so many people do. The gardens of the little terrace of houses within the town at the Greyhound bar add an interesting touch to the town. The playground area by the Carmelite church is nicely secluded with planting and the Lime trees as mentioned above are a lovely feature and show how important the inclusion of large trees are in a townscape. The small open space behind "Mama Mias" has a number of dead trees and unsightly rubbish and needs attention. The landscaping at Scilly towards the Spaniard is very well presented with an interesting collection of plants with a natural style among the spaces at the rock face. The area where the water trickles down from the rock is especially well treated. The grassed verges and open green areas on the approach to Scilly are very attractive helped by the mature trees. Large tree types that we enjoy have been planted by previous generations that could never have hoped to see them to maturity. We owe a similar legacy to the future generations and rather than concentrating on highly ornamental garden trees we need to plant some "real" trees to form the framework of future landscapes. The Town Park was looking exceptionally well with beautiful floral displays and meticulously kept lawns. Unfortunately the water features were not working which was a pity as without water these lose much of their meaning.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Kinsale has a wealth of opportunity to appreciate wildlife with both sea and wooded areas at Scilly offering possibilities. The Scilly Bog notice is attractive. A stroll through this area was marred a little by litter but is a very contrasting style from the main areas of Scilly. The Breakheart Hill had been treated with weedkiller at the sides, which in a way is in direct conflict with the idea of wildlife conservation.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Overall there is good litter control. The provision of cigarette and gum disposal units is a good idea. Litter was noted on the pier at the petrol station and surrounds. Also at the carpark area. Two bins one on the pier and one opposite the carpark were filled to capacity at 2.00 p.m. which is not helpful. Your ongoing work with schools, the U.D.C and residents' associations is commendable in this regard and the need for such to continue is paramount. Litter is a national problem and

only continued determination and goodwill will solve this.

## **TIDINESS**

The tidiness aspect of Kinsale is outstanding and a stroll around the streets and harbour bears witness to this. The removal of overhead cables has helped greatly and the continued restoration and treatment of buildings improves the tidiness.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There is a wide variety of residential accommodation in Kinsale from the old streetside residences to the new apartments and large individual homes as in Scilly. The overall standard is very high and pride in residence is clearly seen. The continual watchful eye on planning permission applications is important as well as the use of the architectural advisory office in ensuring that future developments are acceptable.

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

The intriguing series of little streets in themselves offer great interest and are a pleasure to stroll. The many tiny places that have been developed so well such as Milk Market, Newmans Mall and Chairman's Lane are fascinating. The main roads approaching the town are in good condition and the grassed verges are kept in an attractive condition. The views across from Scilly are spectacular and the various levels on approach to the Fort are well presented giving nice views.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Kinsale is unique in having so much to offer both in terms of the seascape and the character of the town and its streets. The natural aspects are being well utilised. Traffic is a major factor and increased carparking - with some concealment, and pedestrian free areas would be welcome. Private homes and gardens form a very important component of the town and their owners deserve credit for their consistently high standards.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION ( 10/08/00)**

The buildings of Kinsale were mostly quite fresh on adjudication day - in particular Perryville Guest House in pink and cream on the waterfront. The adjacent barrel-vaulted shed is quite unusual but unfortunately neglected. It could be a unique asset to the town if restored to its former glory. The lean-to tin roof of the building to let adjacent to Commercial Hall was in need of some attention - as was the pink building opposite the Garda Station, both of which were mentioned at first adjudication. The open space behind Mama Mia's was still quite overgrown and rubbly. The "Doves" sculpture

opposite the Garda Station was admired. The standard of litter control on a busy day was extremely good with the town being virtually litter free. However, a few papers were noted in Long Quay Park.