

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **DINGLE**  
County : **KERRY**  
Category : **C**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	27	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>208</b>

## **Dingle, County Kerry**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Dingle has a wonderful atmosphere created by the old-time fishing town style. Added to this is the beautiful stone so well used in many situations from walls to the surfaces of road roundabouts giving a special theme to the town. The arts and crafts activities associated with Dingle have grown well and have been benefited strongly from marketing. Plans need to be in hand to cater for the enormous level of visitors and at the same time retain the best of the atmosphere and assets of Dingle. The committee should carefully monitor all building developments at the planning permission stage and ensure that projects are finished off properly and reinstatement is adequate of the surrounds. Working with other organisations is the key factor to success with a tidy towns committee in a town of this size as many of the achievements are not possible without the co-operation of public bodies.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

A walk around Dingle is very enjoyable. At this stage rather than listing the business premises that are looking well it would be easier to list the few that need upgrading. These are self-evident and no doubt the committee uses all its powers of persuading to improve these situations. The colour and style of the shops is particularly noteworthy and this picture fascinates tourists. Even on a grey day the lively colours lift the spirits. There is always a danger of tackiness developing and restraint is needed to avoid this. Viewing the town from a distance on the Ventry road some colourful clusters of holiday cottages homes give an interesting impression. The craft village and Dingle Marina cottages are well presented. Even the Garda station has adopted the style of the town with its walls prominently displayed in strong pink. Stone features are beautiful everywhere they occur from the entrance to the Dingle holiday cottages to the roundabouts and many walls on approaches to Dingle. St Mary's Church has wonderful stone both inside and outside. The care homes adjacent are a great idea but the treatment of the "cutback" stone wall enclosing them does not seem to work well. Perhaps if these walls were higher, capped with stone and uniform it could work better, as well as completely concealing the new building except for the windows. The old convent has a worn look and a glimpse into the old wall garden confirms the changing times with a few remaining vegetables among many weeds, and a wall of this magnificent walled garden has been removed to allow building foundations. Could the small walled garden be saved? The Court House is a fine building - could it be given better prominence? St James Church and grounds are very neglected and rejuvenation of this and the surrounding cemetery is required.

## **LANDSCAPING**

The natural landscape of the area is most beautiful. The foxgloves and fuchsia characterise the area. Wind no doubt causes difficulties with many plantings. The treatment of the stream running through the town is interesting. This varies considerably from the beautiful development at the Captains garden to the point where the stream is lost to vegetation further down stream. At Old Smoke House another treatment is given. Weeds and litter detract from the stream. There are a number of possibilities of improving this stream and making it attractive for its entire length. The large planters at the centre of the road towards the marina – painted yellow (these are large concrete conduits) could be replaced by stone fronted large planters in keeping with the stone of the area. Plantings on the Killarney road are developing

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Opportunities in this regard must be enormous with the coastal influence. The development of projects relating to the flora and fauna of the area would create real interest both for the people of Dingle and the many tourists who wish to appreciate the full potential of Dingle. By finding the right people to work on this project a great asset would be tapped.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter presents a problem in a number of areas. This is inevitable in such a busy seasonal place. The path around the back of the Court House harbours much litter. Some litter was in evidence in the stream and more in the side passages such as The Colony and An Garrai. Constant vigilance and encouragement to people to be aware of litter is important. This is a national problem and if any one place could find the answer they would be in great demand everywhere in Ireland.

## **TIDINESS**

Tidiness is about attention to detail including car parking arrangements and the proper storage of materials outside shops. Very often people are unaware of the untidy aspect of their activities and need some encouragement. The surface of the walkway by the shops in front of the Marina (where there is no normal footpath) develops water pools during rainfall and is very unpleasant. The yellow painted containers on the traffic island in this same area draw more attention to themselves than the plants within.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There is a large array of housing styles in both continuous and seasonal occupancy. There is a good appearance generally in this regard and the efforts of individual homeowners who silently work away at keeping their places

well deserve credit. Mature gardens frequently form the fabric of the landscape. As stated above the many holiday home developments are well kept.

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

The one-way system and parking facilities help to ensure a free flow of traffic. The approach roads are treated well although they are under pressure with heavy traffic. It would be well to focus on some of the back areas within the town. Like many towns now Dingle is opening up back areas either through car parking or as a way of additional retail space. This results in the backs of buildings – which are often not the most attractive being exposed. The Colony; An Garrai; Dick Mack's Yard; The Weavers Yard; An Capall Dubh are examples.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Dingle is a very colourful town with lots of interest. New challenges will face the town with more visitors, extra traffic and holiday homes. The pedestrianisation of some streets during the middle of the day could be considered.