

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KENMARE**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 25-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	43
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	24
Litter Control	40	35	34
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	36	35
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	260	253

Kenmare, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The interest and enthusiasm demonstrated in Kenmare by the 50 strong member tidy towns committee is very impressive. Over the years Kenmare has been steadily improving and the very high standards are reflected in the marking. While the beauty of the surrounds of Kenmare cannot be credited to anyone but nature, the work carried out in and around the town is consistent with this natural beauty and utilises many natural features such as at the pier and the Reenagross Park. The materials submitted with the application form were very helpful particularly the marked map of Kenmare. Your commitment to dealing with the litter issue is very positive and having the community involved to such an extent is a marvellous idea.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The most striking buildings in the town are the numerous exceptionally well painted shops and business premises. The array of colours is lovely and makes Kenmare sparkle amidst its background. Once upon a time well painted premises were listed in reports, now there are so many this would be impossible and it would be simpler to make a short list of those in need of attention. With such an active and progressive committee such a list would be well known. The two churches are lovely landmarks and give a good setting at opposite ends of the town. The schools are well painted and cared for. The CourtHouse is attractive and forms an important part of the square. The Market House must be high on the priority list for transformation. The accommodation sector – Guesthouses and Hotels play a very prominent role in the built environment in and around the town and these are showing an exceptional standard. As with many towns in Ireland, new developments are taking place behind streets and buildings – carparks, shopping areas, walkways. This results in the exposure of the rears of buildings, which hitherto had not been on view. This offers a challenge to upgrade such places. The library looks a little tired and this needs to be on a priority list of developments. The square is particularly attractive with the tall lime trees of the beautifully railed green and the views of the church, the Main Street and Henry Street.

LANDSCAPING

The Fairgreen is a lovely central focus in Kenmare. The high quality railings and several entrances, pathways, and seating allows people to enjoy the calmness of the magnificent mature lime trees and the borders of roses and bedding plants. The Fairgreen with its predominantly green theme gives a very relaxing atmosphere. When one sees the value of these trees

it is well to remember that the people who planted these are long gone and could never have hoped to see them to maturity. These trees will not last forever. Are we planting these "real" trees for our legacy to future generations? The Hotel and Guesthouse gardens and grounds are noteworthy and provide an important part of the landscape of the town. The pierside grassed areas and shrub plantings are well kept. The Church of Ireland grounds has beautiful Yew trees and a lovely multistemmed Myrtle tree which is a gem. The school grounds are well attended to. The housing estates of Scarteen Park and Dromnevene are well cared for. In Dromnevene there are large greens that could take tree planting. The very attractive entrance to Kenmare from Sneem by the Kenmare Bay Hotel is particularly well treated with the non-fussy formula of good grass and natural stone all kept in a state of perfection.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Reenagross Park is being well utilised and it is a lovely idea to be able to walk in at one point and emerge in another part of the town – maybe to continue a walk down to the pier. Fortunately, the park can combine both woodland and seashore habitats. The lovely beech and oak and holly trees give this park a great stability and your planting programme of Arbutus, Hawthorn, Spindle Hippophae, Blackthorn and Rowan trees will indeed contribute to the richness for bird activity. The photographs submitted were interesting and the positioning of bat boxes is a good addition. The walkways are well surfaced and depending on the length of walk you choose there is wildlife available. Seating is important and this is also provided.

LITTER CONTROL

The litter is in good control in the town but there is the odd plastic bag to contend with. Your initiatives in the litter respect are certainly showing your intention to combat litter in the town and the raising of a positive attitude is half the battle.

TIDINESS

Again your hard work shows and there is a good tidy appearance to the town as a whole. A very few spots might be managed in a more attractive way (e.g. the green at the far end of the Dromnevene Estate).

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are a number of very fine residences on the Kilgarvan road which with their well-landscaped gardens give a nice attraction. The housing estates of Scarteen and Dromnevene are well cared for. Individuals can contribute greatly to the overall appearance of the town by their efforts with their own properties and those that do a good job deserve credit.

Improvements in the standards of grass maintenance and the planting of trees on large greens in estates will further improve the residential areas. The Terrace of houses up Market Street towards the Stone Circle are very attractive as are those approaching the pier.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The entrance from the Sneem side is especially good with lovely stone and grass well maintained. As back streets and passageways open up as stated above they present a challenge to the backs of houses. Rock Street is a pretty little street and gives access to the houses beyond. Bridge street pedestrian street is developing well. The garden by the river is beautiful and again illustrates the contribution that even one place can make. The other side of the bridge by the red shed must have possibilities. The area around the Kerry Farm Shop is well cleaned and the walls attractive.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Kenmare presents a very impressive picture with many assets and great sense of enthusiasm for seeking perfection.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (07/08/00)

The charming and busy town of Kenmare has continued to make steady progress in the competition over the last number of years and this year was no exception. There is a strong sense of community spirit shown by the local residents which is quite apparent to the visitor. The brightly painted shop fronts with their colourful floral displays give a very cheerful appearance. There are many fine traditional fronts – particularly noted were the Curiosity Shop and Pat Sheehan's with their original sash windows. There are a few curved plastic canopies which should be replaced with more traditional fabric awnings. Plastic signs should also be replaced with ones of a more traditional timber variety. The fine stone walling along approach roads are an investment in the town's future.