

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KNIGHTSTOWN**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 23-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	39
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	236	232

Knightstown, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The planning of developments in Knightstown is very comprehensive and includes a great diversity of projects. The approach from the car ferry was indeed impressive and the waterfront gives a lovely introduction to the village. The great use of the historical aspects of Knightstown makes the village very interesting and the written plaques are most helpful yet unobtrusive such as at Altazamuth walk and stone, Clock Tower, and Famine Water slab.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The seafront buildings are part of the attraction of the stretch of coastline. The church is very attractive as are the lighthouse and Old Western Union Cable Station office and housing. The Church of Ireland church has developed very well and both the building and grounds are a marvellous asset. The project to restore the lovely gates is admirable and adds the final touch needed. The gates of the Catholic Church are in need of treatment at this stage and this is emphasised by the restored gates of the Church of Ireland Church. The slate is a great feature of the village. – slate walls, slate paving, slate name plates, slate slabs at door entrances and slate sculpture – all are a unique feature of the village and prompted a visit to the slate quarry and grotto which was very interesting. It is curious that so much concrete was used at the grotto with the wealth of surrounding slate. The brightly painted Knightstown Coffee House looks very attractive. The standard of the houses and business premises is high and great care is evident in many details. Of particular note are the stone and slate features. The treatment of the derelict houses is noteworthy – this is a problem in so many towns and villages and it is good to adopt positive action in dealing with it.

LANDSCAPING

The attractive landscape of this village adds greatly to its attractiveness and enhances the buildings. The sea front area uses a simple formula of well kept grass, cleanliness and attention to the paths with great success. The many container plantings throughout the village add colour. Individual gardens play a significant role in contributing to the landscape both in the village and in the surrounding roads – this is a very important aspect and a way in which everyone can contribute. The street and lane ways are well-treated with care – Jane Street and Peter Street, and the way up behind the telephone box in particular.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Altazamuth Walk is a lovely project and it is always pleasant to find a walkway that takes you from one part of a town or village without using the road. This is a nice shortcut to the church. The path is very functional and wheelchair accessible but until good landscaping has matured it seems a little clinical. The surrounding area of wildlife interest would need some type of access – a type of natural surfaced path and in an informal style. The burning off of the vegetation along the path towards the church with weedkiller is in direct opposition to the wildlife theme of the path. There are some lovely examples of natural wall vegetation – Pennywort and ferns,- for instance on the Church of Ireland roadside walls. Keeping these is important in any clean up that might occur.

LITTER CONTROL

The litter control in Knightstown is of a very high standard.

TIDINESS

Building developments inevitably cause temporary untidiness. The heap of sand towards the end of the street approaching the Clock tower needs attention..

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The many residences both within and at the surrounds of the village are nicely maintained. There is a good sense of pride of place and this helps create a good impression of the village. Stone and slate walls are a lovely feature of the area and this gives a special local character to the village. Colourful paintwork especially in the village adds further to the character.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The signage is every effective. The roadway along the seafront is nicely presented with the inlets for carparking. The surrounds of An Oige and Jane and Peter streets are kept in a very good state. The careful maintenance of hedgerows consistent wild wildlife care is admirable.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

There is a lovely atmosphere in Knightsbridge brought about by the seafront approach, the slate characteristic styles and the historic interest – emphasised by the Altazamuth stone. The care and enthusiasm of the community is easily recognisable. The sculpture and art exhibitions add a delightful touch.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (08/08/00)

Knightstown was a pleasure, as ever, to visit despite a wet and miserable August adjudication day. The town looked very fresh, the traditional nameplate sign on the approach to the village was sparkling white – the retention of this is to be commended. Most of the buildings in the village were extremely fresh - of particular note, the housing estate as one approached the village and the Royal Pier bar, in its prominent location at the end of the street, by the clock tower. The marvellous displays of montbretia and hydrangeas were delightful, as ever. In particular, were the latter at Reenellen and the Catholic Church – the railings of this building are getting slightly rusty and will need some attention. The Altazamuth Walk has developed well since this adjudicator's last visit to the village. Knightstown continues to make steady progress in the competition and maintains a high standard of presentation.