

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **LISTOWEL**  
County : **KERRY**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	31
General Impression	10	8	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>230</b>

## **Listowel, County Kerry**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the extensive material and map supplied which were most useful in gaining an understanding of the development work in progress at Listowel. T.A.B.L.E. is a very good idea and certainly appears to be showing dividends. The Golden Broom award is also a novel idea and anything that can help with the terrible curse of litter is welcome. With towns of this size the work of a tidy towns committee becomes very involved with lobbying various bodies to achieve results that are not possible by the tidy towns committee alone. This type of work is so important.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There are many interesting features in this category. The square in particular is worthy of mention with its fine buildings all around. It is nice to see some residential as well as business. The church is striking and the Listowel castle remains a lovely landmark and hopefully, with the planning permission being sought, some more interesting interpretation and access will follow and this would be a fitting link to the square. The many fine shop fronts throughout the town give Listowel real character. The Kerry library and cultural centre are fine assets. The residential housing combines well with the business premises in the town and gives an interesting atmosphere to Listowel. The Dandy House is indeed an interesting building and its history fascinating.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The tree planting in the square is attractive giving a very simple appearance but a definite green presence. The paving and kerbing style complement the landscaping and provide good unity. By the riverside walk the tree planting helps to give a pleasant walk. The copper beech and willows will in time give a lovely effect along this walk. It is good to see that the white valerian has been retained on the walls at the concrete path section of the walkway leading to the wooden steps to Tea Lane. The landscaping at the Town park is really attractive and this has developed into a great facility now with the beautiful riverside walk and the mature beech trees. The Garden of Europe is of special mention. This has now developed to maturity and is so well kept that it is a real pleasure to visit. Raised plantings in front of the Cattle market and at the end of Market Street are nice features. The planting at the Classic Cinema will need reorganising now with the changed structure at the roundabout. The area to the front of Morkan Tiles looks a little stark. The site beside the entrance to the bottlebank could benefit from attention.

Container plantings are perfect for adding that sparkle of colour in the streets. Planting in housing estates is all-important to create a pleasant environment for resident and children. Ashgrove estate for instance has copious greens and not a tree present. Similarly there are lots of tree planting opportunities in Ballylogne Park estate.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The riverside walks are a great asset and offer further potential now in terms of interpretation of the flora and fauna. Many people have very little knowledge of wildlife and what some people may regard as knowledge taken for granted is unknown to others. Even simple display boards illustrating birds and plants likely to be seen and information about these would be very welcome.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

In general there is a good level of litter control. However on closer examination litter will be found in some of the front garden spaces of the houses on the square and on the streets. It is difficult to keep a town litter free and constant vigilance is needed. The "Golden Broom Project" is excellent and any other scheme to keep people aware of the need for litter control.

## **TIDINESS**

Some untidiness in Market Street by evening time was noted. Shops tend to keep their outside pavements well although some use the pavement for placement of objects.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Many residential properties are on street sides which is very welcome creating a life to the town other than that formed by shopping. The housing estates are kept well. Some of the older residences are particularly attractive and are well cared for. These help the approach roads and give a good impression on entry. Such individual homes are very valuable to the town and so frequently without an involvement of tidy towns committee. The owners are to be commended on their efforts. The Hawthorn drive has a lovely tree lined entrance . The green at the start of the estate needs refurbishment.

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

The one way street system seems to work well and could well be adopted by many towns. As more emphasis is placed on the main streets and shopping areas the back ways will come under focus – for instance at the carparking area for SuperValu supermarket the back entrances of many premises have become exposed and in time as in many other towns these will improve and may even become valued as business

outlets or residences. Similar back areas exist at other locations. The approach by Tea Lane to the wooden steps to the riverside could be improved. Tarbert Road has many fine houses with attractively kept gardens and homes giving a good appearance to the roadside. The John B. Keane Road has a great deal of recent planting by the roadsides – these will take time to reach their potential. Further along that road the concrete block walls to either side are a little stark and hopefully some plantings will follow.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Listowel has a magical atmosphere, which results from a combination of shops, square and river together with the associations of the races and the literary talent.

## **SECOND ADJUDICATION (05/08/00)**

The heritage town of Listowel sports many examples of the fine plasterwork for which the town is famed, for example the Maid of Erin. There are other marvellous examples of modern sculpture and hard landscaping used to good advantage, the attractive serpentine limestone bench at the Square being particularly admired. This is a marvellous space and the houses currently being restored at the top of the Square should be a fine asset to the town when complete. The Listowel Arms Hotel should replace their plastic sign with one of a more appropriate variety, for example, simple individual raised metal lettering or a raised plaster sign. The abundance of flowers throughout the town gave it a cheerful appearance. Litter control could have been better on the day, quite a lot was evident along the main streets of the town. Weeds were also apparent to the bases of buildings in some locations. Collin's is a fine traditional shop front on Church Street which would benefit greatly from restoration – at the moment it sports broken windows. The livestock market looked quite neglected and the rear areas of buildings in the location of SuperValu created a bad impression. These are locations which will need some attention over the coming years. The practice of advertising hoardings on approach roads should be discouraged and the curved canopy along the main streets should be replaced with more traditional fabric awnings.