

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SNEEM**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 24-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	26
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	34
General Impression	10	9	8
TOTAL MARK	300	243	239

Sneem, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Sneem continues to develop very well with new projects emerging through the years, which have contributed to the very high standard now pertaining. The completing of the pedestrian walk on the bridge must be a frustrating issue at this stage. The bridge walk is a marvellous idea and one which could be adopted in so many towns and villages in Ireland. Could a temporary exit be made to avoid everybody having to turn back having thought there was an exit ? Your plans to replace the museum are interesting. The co-operation and work of FAS is certainly significant and deserves acknowledgement. Planning for the next three to five years is also important and a comprehensive plan should be developed now.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The colourfully painted buildings are now one of the strong features of Sneem. The collective vision of the village buildings is a colourful sight viewed on the landscape from a distance. Once upon a time the main well presented buildings could be listed now it would be easier to make a short list of the few needing attention. The stone walls in so many places are a lovely feature of Sneem. The wall along the Kenmare Road, the entrance from the Castlecove side with the attractively presented stone and Rhododendron boundaries, the stone walls at the pier, the stone wall at the Sports Field entrance are also noteworthy – a rarity in such circumstances where the concrete block normally rules. With the opening up of so many areas behind buildings in towns and villages now, the backs of buildings are becoming more and more visible – views from the Pier Road, the Sculpture park and the Pitch and Putt course expose the backs of houses on this side of the village and present a challenge which is being addressed. The array of Sneem Monuments now is very interesting and has developed into a trail of its own. The Sculpture Park is a marvellous feature and very well maintained.

LANDSCAPING

The natural landscape confers a beauty of its own on Sneem for which nobody can take the credit. The two greens are the two most prominent landscape features within the village. Both are very well maintained with high quality grass and plantings. The imprisonment of these greens with three rows of chains is questionable. The concrete kerb in a place of such beautiful stone of the area also is worth pondering. The trees on the greens look well. Perhaps a time may come to stand back and consider what would the best collection of trees to have in such greens rather than a replacing or adding trees individually.

The containerised plants add a nice sparkle of colour. The Church of Ireland has pleasant grounds with a calm touch and the two black seats outside are so fitting. At the Catholic Church the nine trees along to the approach are very effective. As they are maturing now they will either need pruning or alternate trees could be removed to allow full shaped natural development. This church is nicely landscaped and the borrowing of the Sculpture Park is very effective. Individual gardens make a very positive contribution to the overall landscape of the village.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The riverside walk is a marvellous asset and with its continued maturity and further development represents one of the strongest features of Sneem. The bird area and vegetable garden make this all the more interesting. The system of paths is easily accessible and makes a very pleasant walk from the village to the pier as well as for their wild life value. The River could offer even more potential if a walkway upstream could be created.

LITTER CONTROL

Some small amounts of litter were observed on the North Square and plastic bag blowing about on the green but overall the litter freedom was very noteworthy. The litterbin with lids seems a good idea except that it was noticed that people do not life the lid always placing the litter on top to blow about.

TIDINESS

Tidiness is a quality of Sneem in broad context. The billboards on the square continue to detract from the high standards. The post and triple chain surround of the greens is questionable under this heading too. The back area leading to the Pitch and Putt area could take some attention.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The contribution that individual homes are making is very significant. Homes and gardens are beautifully kept and great credit is due to homeowners who silently look after their property. Residents on the squares have great pride in their homes and the standard of painting and planters indicate this.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The Approach roads as already stated on both sides are very attractive with stone walls and plantings. The broad grassed areas interestedly presented on the Castlecove side add character to the entrance. Road surfaces on the North Square and to the Catholic Church are uneven in places and need attention. The removal of overhead cables will be welcome.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This is an unusual village with so many interesting features, all of which are being well utilised and help to present a very impressive picture.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (07/08/00)

Both squares were extremely well maintained and their sculptural features had been painted (or in the case of the steel one to the North Square had been brushed down) since this adjudicator last had the pleasure of visiting the village. However, it was disappointing to note that the completion of the pedestrian bridge is still a problem – visitors, at the moment, have to take their lives in their hands in order to dodge the traffic! The buildings of the town were generally very fresh especially the Garda Station in its primary colours, which looked most cheerful. The Church of Ireland should be freshened up before next year's competition however. Both approaches to the village were well maintained, in particular, the Kenmare Road with its attractive dry stone walling was admired. A magnificent garden on this road filled with colourful nasturtiums looked particularly well. The telephone boxes by the museum are in need of some attention before next year's competition. Litter control on the day was generally very good, although a newspaper was being blown around in the breeze near the Garda Station.