

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TARBERT**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 19-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	218	216

Tarbert, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Tarbert has the natural advantages of both the estuary and the lovely wooded area of Tarbert house. The long drive to the ferry port also allows appreciation for many visitors. The map supplied was most useful and helped to make the most of the visit. The square is a very strong point of the town and helps to create a focus in the town. With such a small tidy towns committee you are doing well and it is understandably difficult to produce a plan of work over the next few years. Such a plan however would be most helpful to focus activity and perhaps this would also motivate others.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The buildings on the square are generally well cared for with a good standard of paint and upkeep. The shops have improved over the past few years and as they do they serve to show those that are less cared for how improvements can be so beneficial. The stonework is well constructed and is a very valuable asset. The walls of the enclosed area opposite Bridewell House offers greater potential. The Credit Union , both churches and the schools are fine buildings and add to the standard of Tarbert.

LANDSCAPING

The many container plantings on the streets present a colourful picture. There are some opportunities for planting in Tarbert such as the picnic area which could benefit from some attention to landscaping especially tree planting. The church grounds beside the school are devoid of any plant except grass, which seems a pity. The community centre would be improved by landscape treatment of its surrounds. The individual gardens of houses contribute well to the overall vision of the town and good credit is due to individual homeowners. Many of the gardens at St. Patrick's Tce are very attractive.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The estuary and woodland offer enormous potential. The retention of wall vegetation is commended. There are some lovely examples of old walls with pennywort, small ferns and ivy leafed toadflax. The bridge being a good example. The old walled garden within the woodland walk is fascinating and deserves research and even partial restoration would be great.

LITTER CONTROL

Despite best efforts some litter was evident in a number of places. Otherwise the overall litter impression was very good. Some dumping at the laneway to the back of St. Patrick's terrace was unwelcome.

TIDINESS

Tarbert presents a tidy appearance, the square and main street in particular gives a very good impression. Some of the back areas such as the short cut – from the street near the bridge to the main street need some attention. It is nice to be able to have a walk from one point to another in a village or town that does not follow the street. The view from St. Patrick's Tce towards the river gives an untidy sense.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residences are well cared for and this adds greatly to the overall appearance of the town. Donard Crescent needs continued work and in time will present well. Houses at Tieraclea are nicely presented with trees at the entrance and well cared for houses.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

While its commendable to have such a variety of wild flowers in the hedgerows care needs to be taken to avoid overgrown spots to develop which then need drastic cutback and can look a little too shorn. The verges along the Glin side could be improved in this regard. The roadsides to the ferry port are very attractive. The inclusion of shrubs at intervals along the road by Tarbert House may be a little out of place when such natural beauty is already present. Would it be possible to have inlets in the broad pathway to allow a car to pull in and enjoy the scene or enter the wooded walk.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Overall a very pleasant picture is presented in Tarbert with good attention to development and avail of the natural amenities. As a first impression from the ferry port you are met with very attractive well cared for areas at the port and a lovely drive to the town.