

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **TRALEE**  
County : **KERRY**  
Category : **F**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 20-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	21	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>200</b>

## Tralee, County Kerry

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

With the huge amount of activity and developments in Tralee a sizeable tidy towns committee is well needed. The continual development and the upgrading of business premises is very noticeable. A tidy towns committee needs to have a good system of monitoring and influencing decisions in these circumstances. Your close contacts with relevant bodies are all important in ensuring that there is a voice in the diverse development process. It would be most helpful at adjudication time to have a list of new developments in which the tidy towns committee have had an influence as well as the normal range of recent developments.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

There are so many interesting buildings in Tralee and such diversity that a visit to Tralee has become a fascinating experience. The Business premises are upgrading continually with improved standards of shop fronts and layout. To name out all the attractive shop and business premises is becoming such a long litany now and a more productive exercise would be for the tidy towns committee to grade them with a view to improving those most in need of upgrading. The large supermarkets with their all-important car parks have opened up new back areas of the place. This presents challenges as backs of buildings are not always the most attractive. The area behind the Bank of Ireland is particularly attractive with the well-clad walls of creepers and the trees along the boundary. In the future as more of these types of openings occur extra thought will turn to the rear of buildings. The directional signs and one way system of traffic helps greatly and other towns should note. The Train station contrasts with the Eagle Star building interestingly as does the Department of Social Welfare with the opposite style of the Day Place Terrace and the lovely stone of the Holy Cross church. The town hall and Ashe memorial buildings are striking and the wonderful stone surrounds of the Aquadome and Siamsa Tire add real character to Tralee. With the new work currently in progress adjacent to the Aquadome the face of Tralee will change and hopefully further enhance the varied styles of Tralee. The Windmill makes an attractive feature and the approach and surrounding area is well presented. The many schools and colleges are playing their part in the fabric of Tralee and every improvement forms part of the jigsaw of moving towards perfection. The IT college and community school looks well. Some schools hold huge area of grassed land that could be ideal tree planting areas helping to green the ever increasing built areas. St. Johns church and surrounds with the walkway to the Town park is a lovely feature.

## **LANDSCAPING**

The most outstanding landscaping feature of Tralee is the Town Park. This is a wonderful facility and asset and is so well cared for giving a delightful place to walk and enjoy not only the roses but also the array of trees and shrubs and pleasant paths. The area for fowl and the different moods created by the features make it suitable for all ages. The ability to enter this park from a number of points makes it all the more valuable. This means that people can get from A to B in the town without having to walk the streets. The Pairc an Phiarsaigh is a lovely attraction also. There are many areas of tree planting that bring life and style to Tralee. For instance the Lime and Birch tree rows on approach to St. Johns church. The railway station platform is well furnished with container plantings, which is helpful. Landscaping housing estates is all-important. Pressure should be placed on developers of sites to ensure that they are suitably finished with good plantings. The Ragoonawn estate for instance is in a sad state in regard to tree plantings contrasting with estates nearby such as Cois Coill, Laurel Court estates which are well furnished with trees. The grounds of Scoil Mhic Easmainn do not seem to have a single tree planted in their enormous green areas. Their surrounds will influence children going to school and a great opportunity exists here. The grounds of the Tralee IT are well planted giving a pleasant touch to the environs there. Considerable tree planting has taken place at the Clash and Tralee Business Park and industrial centre. Maintenance is important in order to get the most from these plantings and attention to detail of verges and weed control. Individual homes and their gardens form an important fabric of the town and great credit is due to homeowners who diligently and quietly maintain their roadfront gardens. Tree planting in front of the Brandon Hotel has matured well giving a welcome break between buildings and roads and cars.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The Town Park offers interesting opportunities in this respect with such a wide variety of trees and shrubs. Perhaps the development within the park of less meticulously maintained areas would encourage a wider range of species. The riverside walk towards the windmill is an attractive and recreational although with no cover the wildlife aspect will be low. With so many educational bodies in Tralee some good projects should emerge to be implemented.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There is a good standard of litter control for such a large town. Litter is evident on streets however and a continual war needs to be waged in this regard, litter on tree island outside Brandon Hotel. The Dominican Order memorial was less than attractive at adjudication with considerable litter, Wheel bins,

and plastic from the underlined shrub border. The arches were not presenting themselves well in such surrounds.

## **TIDINESS**

Tidiness is really attention to detail. The well kept space in front of a business premises, Petrol pump forecourt; the attention to tree and grass verge maintenance and the manner in which materials are stored or organised. Car parking too is concerned with tidiness and well organised off street parks and allowing traffic flow without obstacles helps.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

There is a huge range of residential areas. The old estate and well-matured housing tends to sink into the background more than new estates. As already mentioned proper finish of open spaces, service roads entrances are all items that developers must be forced to conclude. Many examples of unfinished estates occur. The Ashleigh estate for example, needs finishing.

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

The one-way system is really working well. Could areas of pedestrian only be developed ? These always add character and freedom of movement. As earlier stated the back areas are becoming more exposed and will need more attention, As these develop as in other towns they will offer business opportunities if they are well presented. The Milk Market lane, Barrack lane, Walpole lane and McGowens lane will no doubt take more prominence in the future and higher standards will be required.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Many developments are changing Tralee but the centre areas of streets and the Town Park with the important buildings will continue to make Tralee an interesting and attractive town.