

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KING'S ISLAND**
County : **LIMERICK**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 25-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	32
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	14
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	197	193

Kings Island, Limerick City

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your completed entry together with 5 year development scheme plan and sketch map of the greater Kings Island area. Congratulations on receiving such national recognition in your first year as an urban village entrant. Last years report made reference to both the historical significance and the character that area possesses and I can certainly vouch for that. The committee has developed a good relationship with Limerick Corporation and other agencies such as Shannon Development but more importantly it has received the support of most of the wider community. Now is the time to cement relationship between committee and local residents associations. The 5 Year Development Plan has some ambitious but practical objectives so it is vital that all manner of support is harnessed to implement same. It is also important that local publications such as “ The Parish News” continue to convey the gospel of Tidy Towns.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

As stated in last years report Kings Island differs from most villages in that its buildings and streetscapes have a strong historical relevance and depict different eras of Limerick's rich history. The proposed streetscape development for Nicholas Street and Mary Street will see major changes in the fabric of this part of the “urban village. If what is proposed is on par with what has been achieved in other older areas of the city under the urban renewal programme, then one can feel satisfied that this development will be for the betterment of not alone immediate area under consideration but Kings Island as whole. The new ring road has opened up a part of Limerick that heretofore was hidden from public view and the residents of areas such as Asumpta Park and Lee Estate have responded by ensuring their respective areas are presented to an acceptable standard. There are still many unsightly sites visible, most notably opposite Kings Johns Castle, as a result of ongoing work and from unfinished developments. The Committee should be vigilant and indeed vocal in its efforts to have these problem sites removed over the next number of years. A number of public buildings including King Johns Castle, Bishops Palace, both St Mary's Church and St Mary's Cathedral were very well presented and maintained. One should not forget the efforts of those individuals entrusted with the job of looking after these buildings and grounds. The Villiers Alms Homes also deserve mention for the manner in which it is presented.

LANDSCAPING

The standard in this category was very good with excellent planting schemes to be viewed on the Abbey Bridge and at the Island Road roundabout. Individual premises displayed colourful hanging baskets. The Committee should, in light of the new development to take place in Nicholas Street, have an input to the landscaping plans for the area. In the short term some camouflaging by way of landscaping might make the site at Kings Johns Castle less of an eyesore.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

In last years report it was suggested that a wildlife programme should be included as part of a work plan for the following years competition. It is good to see that this has been acted upon and I wish you luck with The Grove Island Project and the proposed Angling Centre at Lee Park. This part of Limerick is synonymous with angling and boating traditions. Hopefully schoolchildren from various schools in the area will be invited to contribute to both projects.

LITTER CONTROL

It is very hard to have an effective anti-litter programme in an area so big, after all small villages and hamlets are experiencing difficulty in getting the positive message of litter control across. Naturally there was bound to be pockets of litter evident especially where there are a number of derelict sites and in some communal green areas but I genuinely feel that local residents are making a big effort to reduce the problem. The standard of control in housing estates varied but overall it was quite good. The message of anti-litter has to start with the younger generation in the schools

TIDINESS

The standard in this category was varied; in some places there was too much dereliction and weed growth, which are the main components of untidiness.

Other parts of the "village " had taken it upon themselves to clear up unsightly rubbish as distinct from litter. I know that the Committee are very aware that this is a category where improvement is required if Kings Island is to realise its true potential in the competition. I would suggest that a series of talks by the Corporations Environment Officer combining litter control and tidiness should be given to local residents associations. By sharing the problem it may be resolved quicker.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category was very good even allowing for the fact in the diversity of dwellings some of newer vintage some older. The new road has made Kings Island

more accessible and visible than before and the local residents have responded by presenting their respective local areas to the full. The old areas like Bishops Street and Island View Terrace looked very well on adjudication day, which might I add was free of any additional congestion that would prevail on a week day. Assumpta Terrace and Lee Estate were very well presented indeed many residents had beautiful and colourful gardens on view. The Island field area adjacent to the football pitch was a little mixed and was not helped by the appalling condition of the road surface. There is need for improvement in this part of Kings Island something the Committee are probably aware of.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The five main approaches over Thomond Bridge, Matthew Bridge from Patrick Street, Baals Bridge from Broad Street, O'Dwyer Bridge from Corbally and the Abbey Bridge were all presented to a high standard. These roads are through roads and as such are subjected to heavy traffic at all times, something most small villages do not have to contend with, so their condition was all the more praiseworthy.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Last year Kings Island was welcomed into the competition for the first time and indeed that it was the recipient of a National award for best urban village was no surprise such was the effort put in by everyone concerned. This year it is even harder to keep that concerted effort going but personally I think that you have succeeded. Sure there are inherent problems that will be difficult to tackle and indeed may take some time to do so. I have no doubt that all who have the interest of Kings Island at heart will strive for further improvement.