

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DINGLE**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-2001

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2001 | Mark Awarded 2000 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 39 | 38 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 33 | 32 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 27 | 27 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 18 | 18 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 27 | 26 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 13 | 13 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 22 | 22 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 27 | 26 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 214 | 210 |

Dingle, Co. Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator would like to thank you for the copy of your Tidy Towns Plan 2001-2003. This is a most comprehensive Plan and it will guide the work of your Committee over the next few years. Dingle is a most attractive town that adopts a serious approach to the Competition, and it is full of character.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Stone walls and stone buildings are a key characteristic of the built environment in Dingle and it is good to see that this is being reflected in on-going development works. The "Paint Pool" initiative is imaginative and hopefully it is working well by now. At Upper Main Street the long stone wall is a key feature, however repairs are necessary and this should be included in your Acton Plan. The Hospital grounds are attractive but the building is in need of early re-painting, while the boundary wall of the Fire Station also needs similar attention. In the centre of the town the Ice Plan beside the Tourist Information Office should be repainted. The presentation at the Sports Grounds on the Tralee road was good. On John Street some fine stone buildings were noted that would appear to have restoration potential. Other buildings in need of restoration were noted in Strand Street. The Catholic Church and grounds looked well on adjudication day. While many buildings in the centre of Dingle have been painted recently a number are in need of such attention as a matter of urgency. Projecting signs are a difficulty in many towns and villages in Ireland. Dingle has many such signs but they all have character and are appropriate in terms of the individual buildings involved.

LANDSCAPING

The under-grounding of ESB and Telephone cables was underway on adjudication day. While this causes major disruption at the time the end result will be excellent for the town. Attractive green areas were noted on the Tralee approach road and these are being very well maintained. The adjudicator has noted the on-going debate in regard to the Town Park. It is hoped that the end result of any agreed action will help to enhance the environment of the town. At the same time it must deal with the realistic issue of the high traffic volumes moving through Dingle in the visitor season. Above all the final decision must represent a consensus view between the people of Dingle and the Local Authority.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The adjudicator is of the view that you can make much more of the wildlife potential of the area. The small stream at Spa Road with the low stone wall has the potential to become a strong feature of the town. This area needs to be tidied up and long grass and weeds removed. Do try and develop further

amenities that will encourage wildlife to this area, and the town centre in general. The first step however is to identify the species which inhabit any such areas. The planting of native berry producing trees and shrubs can encourage wildlife. Your Committee might also consider the provision of bird and bat roosts and nesting sites in any old buildings. Make sure that any wildlife areas to which the public have access are properly sign-posted. In terms of access do remember the needs of people with disabilities. The development of these amenity walks and nature trails will add greatly to you area in the years ahead. Has your Committee considered the erection of some information plaques about the wildlife to be seen in the area?

The Marina area is a most important amenity for the town and looked well on the day of adjudication.

LITTER CONTROL

The Schools visits programme is an excellent initiative and this needs to continue each year. Likewise the Doorstep Challenge concept puts responsibility for litter and rubbish control where it should be. Litter control in the centre of Dingle is generally good. However outside of the core central area litter was noted in a number of areas such as at the landscaped areas on the Tralee road, on the roadway leading to the Skellig Hotel, and the Spa Road.

TIDINESS

Grass and weed growth at verges was noted in the town centre and on some approach roads. At the Aquarium Car Park the timber fencing would be improved by appropriate painting. The open site where barrels are stored on the approach to the Skellig Hotel is a problem area. An Application for Planning Permission for a Bus depot is noted here. Pending re-development screening might be considered. At the sewerage treatment plant the railings should be painted. On the Spa Road the untidy open space opposite the Mart Car Park needs attention, as does the Car Park itself. A number of apparently abandoned trailers were noted here, and a white container. At The Colony long grass, weeds and litter were noted and this small area needs urgent attention. It could be a most attractive feature area. The adjudicator asks whether it is desirable to allow retail trailer outlets in Dingle, and two were noted? The area opposite The Forge with the Telephone Boxes is in need of attention and the pebble dashed wall needs re-painting.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

New pavement works were noted in Green Street, Strand Street and the Holy Ground. This area will look well when these works are completed. The Dingle Awards Programme is an excellent idea. In general residential areas in Dingle are well maintained. However in some cases boundary walls need attention. A stone faced new housing development was noted at Upper Main Street / Goat Street. The stone appears to

match exactly the stone of the old stone wall in front of the development – this is excellent attention to detail. Attractive cottages were noted at Goat Street but the wall in front needs to be re-painted. A row of beautiful two storey terraced houses were noted at The Wood. In some of them the stone has been revealed and the whole row looks most attractive. Do note however that some stone built houses where the stone was plastered over, were not intended to have the stone visible.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads to Dingle in general are well presented. Do note however that hedge cutting should not take place before July, if the needs of wildlife are to be respected. Cut grass on banks on approach roads must be removed at the time of cutting. Some weed growth was noted at verges on some approaches to the town. Much work needs to be done on the Hillgrove Hotel approach to Dingle. The Connor Pass approach road was excellently presented.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Dingle is a most attractive town that attracts many visitors each year. It is important that you continue to expand the level of public support that you already have for your work. The adjudicator notes that you have a very small Tidy Towns Committee, and suggests to you that the Committee be increased in size so that more people can become involved in your Tidy Towns Programme. Well done on your progress to date.