

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **GLENBEIGH**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 04-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	28	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	23	23
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	191	188

Glenbeigh, Co. Kerry.

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator is very concerned to note that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted with the entry documentation.

Progress in the competition will be dependent on everyone working towards the same ends. With this in mind you must prepare a "3 /5 Year rolling Tidy Towns Work Programme". This programme should have the support of the community, local groups other agencies and the County Council. It would therefore guide you Tidy Towns actions for the next three to five years. The Work Programme will detail the Tidy Towns objectives to be achieved by your committee in the years ahead. The preparation of such a Plan that is updated annually is now an essential aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition.

Do keep in mind that what is required is a simple Plan or document.

A Tidy Towns Handbook has been issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government to all Tidy Towns Committees. This is a highly useful document which will be a great help both to established Tidy Towns Committees and to all new entrants. It is divided into a series of seven Action Sheets that together cover all aspects of the Competition. It might be most useful for a committee to run a series of seminar evenings based on the contents of this Tidy Towns Handbook.

You are working closely with the various environmental agencies and this contact is important.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The building opposite "Glenross" awaits completion of restoration work, and hopefully this will be achieved. The Old Glenbeigh Hotel is a building with a lot of character and it fits in well to the approach from Killorglin. The new street lights look very attractive, as does the new tree planting and grassed area on the left hand side as you approach from the Killorglin side. At the Catholic Church the gate and railings will require painting for next year. Glenbeigh makes good use of colour and the Post Office is a good example of this. However some buildings are in need of repainting or minor repairs. Falvey's Caravan Park with its high level of mature landscaping is an excellent habitat for wildlife. On the approach from Cahirciveen the Riverview Country Cottages look very well and the colour choice here is appropriate. At the Medical Centre the boundary wall needs to be painted.

LANDSCAPING

The use of window boxes and tubs with small trees and plants is effective. Flower beds have still to be provided in the area opposite the GAA property. Excellent new tree planting was noted on the approach from Killorglin and these trees will be a fine feature of Glenbeigh when they mature in the years to come. A very well presented raised flower bed was noted by the Church of Ireland Church.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Behy River area is very attractive and important also for wildlife. Do try and develop further amenities that will encourage wildlife to your area. The first step however is to identify the species which inhabit any such areas. Wildlife can be encouraged by the planting of native berry producing trees and shrubs. The provision of bird and bat roosts and nesting sites in any old buildings might also be considered by your Committee. Make sure that any wildlife areas to which the public have access are properly signposted. 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 your 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 many mature trees and shrubs in Glenbeigh make this an interesting area for wildlife, and the adjudicator hopes that you will follow this up for 2002.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter was noted in a number of areas especially at the seating area by the top of the steps at the entrance to Glenbeigh Wood. Other areas where litter was noted include the car park opposite the Old Glenbeigh Hotel, up the hill beyond the Church, and on the approach to the river bridge. In the village centres incidental litter was also noted. Very heavy traffic passes through Glenbeigh and in a situation like that litter control is always difficult.

TIDINESS

The area in front of the GAA premises is a little untidy and ESB poles and sand are being stored here. Watch out for weed growth at the base of walls, for example at the Catholic Church. In the small car park uphill of the Church a pile of dumped litter was noted. The car park opposite the new garage development was extremely untidy, and urgent improvement work is required here. The 2000 Tidy Towns Report also referred to this car park. A new road sign for the Ring of Kerry / Rossbeigh is required to replace the present old black and white version. On the approach road from Cahirciveen some dumping was noted inside the concrete post and rail fencing. This fencing would be much improved if painted white.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

In general residential areas are well presented. However in a number of cases boundary walls with the roadside need to be painted. Some excellently landscaped gardens were also observed. Some very poor road surfaces were noted in some residential areas.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The main approach roads are well presented but cut grass has not been taken away in some instances. At the GAA property some kerbing is required to define the edge of the public roadway. The side road nearly opposite the "Sleepers Rest" needs work done on the banks, which appear to have received little recent attention. When banks are being cut ideally they should not be cut before July in keeping with the needs of wildlife.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Your Tidy Towns Action Plan is of key importance – remember it is not to be a complicated document, and you should prepare it yourself. Good luck in your work for 2002.