

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILLARNEY**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	42
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	30	31
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	29
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	248	241

Killarney, Co. Kerry.

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator would like to thank the Killarney Working Group for the most comprehensive Tidy Towns document submitted with your 2001 Tidy Towns entry. This was extremely useful on adjudication day. The involvement of all the key agencies and groups with an environmental role in Killarney has been a key factor in your success in the competition to date – congratulations on being a Silver Medal Winner in 2000. The adjudicator noted a key phrase in your document “...integrate rather than dominate..” in regard to new building development. It is noteworthy how well Killarney has succeeded in integrating the rural with the urban in Killarney, and there are many visual links from urban to rural as you walk through the area. The involvement of Residents Associations is noted and this is extremely important.

Killarney has made most successful efforts to accommodate the special needs of wheelchair residents and visitors, and the special parking areas for such users in car parks is an excellent development. The audio signal pedestrian crossings are another good example of the approach. The Disability Awareness Week held in April is a most useful way of making the community more fully aware of the needs of the disabled.

The “Green Growth Policies” are most progressive and hopefully these policies will be fully implemented in the next few years.

Killarney makes extremely positive efforts to promote the Irish language, and this is strongly welcomed.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Killarney has an extremely large portfolio of buildings of significant architectural importance including five ecclesiastical buildings. The potential of Killarney House is significant and the walkway through this area is an attractive development. The planned refurbishment of the Boer War Memorial project is noted. New Street demonstrates a good use of bright colours, though a few disused buildings were noted here. There are still some unattractive projecting shop signs in Killarney and your aim should be to eliminate these with the co-operation of the owners as quickly as possible. New Street has some excellent examples of good development that include “Bricin” and Foley’s Restaurant. Buildings such as these use a few good elements of excellent design. At the Fire Station the landscaping has matured well. There are many signs in Killarney at bed & breakfast premises, indeed some of them are quite large. Have you considered the possibility of rationalising these signs with the agreement of the operators concerned? Possibly a common design might be considered. The Killarney Community College on the New Road is an

attractive building that sits well on its site. Further along New Road at the Garda Station the entrance barrier and railings need to be re-painted. Attractive presentation was noted at the GAA premises.

LANDSCAPING

Killarney has done excellent work in terms of landscaping both by the Local Authority and by individuals. The level of good planting is extremely high. It is noted that in future that all new roads will be landscaped with indigenous trees and this is strongly welcomed by the adjudicator. The Wild Cherry and the Arbutus on the N.22 looks well. On adjudication day work was in progress on the landscaping of the area at the Grotto near the top of Rock Road. The welcome in flowers on the Tralee side of the Grotto is imaginative and attractive. Excellent landscaping was noted near the Library and on many of the roundabouts in Killarney. These create a fine welcoming feature for visitors to the town – it immediately gives the visitor the understanding that this is a town that cares about the environment. The Park Road roundabout is an excellent example of this. Many premises use hanging baskets and flower boxes and these look very attractive in a town of this scale. In a smaller town or village they can look overpowering. The landscaping and standard of maintenance noted in the grounds of the many ecclesiastical buildings is noteworthy in terms of best practise. Excellent landscaping was noted in the private sector also and McDonalds is one example that stands out from many.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Killarney has a large number of wildlife habitats some of them in the town itself. The integration of the rural into the urban setting through careful planting has also encouraged wildlife into the town. For example the development of the Rhododendron and Fern Gardens are important from a wildlife aspect. The town is unique in having some many fine mature trees in the immediate town area and these add so much character to Killarney. Access to wildlife areas is excellent, and the Deenagh River Walk is one example of many.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control in the heart of Killarney was very good on the day of adjudication and only isolated litter was noted. However outside of the core of the town disappointing quantities of litter were noted in various locations. A lot of litter was noted on the bye-pass road and on the Cork Road on the left-hand side outbound. On the road leading to the IDA Industrial Estate quantities of litter were also noted, and on the Park Road. On the way to Ross Castle some litter was also noted at the roadside. Litter control is always difficult and you have succeeded in controlling the situation in the town centre. More attention is now needed to areas outside of the core streets of Killarney.

TIDINESS

Rusty gates were noted on the bye-pass road and these should be painted, perhaps using bright colours. The industrial area off the bye-pass road to the left just before the Park Road roundabout was quite untidy on adjudication day. On the Countess Road (Park Road end) the timber fencing on the left hand side is damaged and in need of repair and painting.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

One of the key factors in Killarney is the very high standard of maintenance of private houses and their associated gardens. Numerous instances of superb planting was noted in private gardens. There is obviously a sense of pride at work here. Beautiful gardens for example were noted on the Ross Road, and in the various estates off Woodlawn Road. All these individuals are playing a key role in environmental excellence in Killarney.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The signage competition plans have been noted and the adjudicator looks forward to seeing the results of this. Pedestrianisation in Killarney continues to be a keen subject of discussion and hopefully this concept can be expanded in future needs keeping the needs of retailers in mind. The many small lanes in Killarney are an attractive feature and many of them are brightly painted. However the entrances to a few of them off the street are in need of re-painting - Hilliard's Lane is an example. Fleming's Lane makes a very good use of colour. All the approach roads to Killarney are excellently presented. For example the low green banks on the left hand side on the Muckross approach are highly attractive and beautifully maintained. The new roundabout in the Ballydowney area looks extremely well and the large rocks used here in the landscaping are very effective.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

It has been a pleasure for your adjudicator to adjudicate Killarney. There is such a good impression of everyone working together towards an agreed Plan – at both Local Authority and private individual level. Nature has given Killarney a unique setting, but the people of Killarney have maximised the benefit of this to the town using the highest standards of environmental development.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (08/08/01)

The use of roundabouts throughout the town has resulted in a considerable improvement of traffic flow. Especially admired was the landscaping of these roundabouts. The grass verges on the main approaches had been recently cut. The ring road looked well but any gaps in the neatly trimmed hedging should be replanted. Some of the older industrial areas would benefit from an overhaul. The grass roadside verges at the Ryan Hotel were exquisite. This time there was litter to be seen in peripheral areas but virtually none in the town centre - a commendable achievement in view of the number of visitors

present. The new Outlet Centre is a great addition to the town. The link road between the Roman Catholic Cathedral and Church of Ireland Church is admirable in the way it appears to meander through parkland. Again, the second adjudicator wishes to complement you on our action on wildlife, inclusive access and Irish language issues.

We wish you well with your future endeavours!