

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **LISTOWEL**  
County : **KERRY**  
Category : **D**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 08-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	43
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	34	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	22
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	31
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>234</b>

## **Listowel, Co. Kerry**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for an excellent submission outlining progress and plans for the future. You are to be commended on your vision for an improved Listowel and your ability to harness support and co-operation from other agencies is praiseworthy. You have enjoyed success in recent times and your challenge now is to pay greater attention to detail and cope with the many new developments – some major, that are planned and in place. Your submission also outlined your own local competition, which is admirable.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

You have a plethora of new and old buildings needing constant maintenance and careful presentation. The square continues to be your main focal point and recent developments, in particular, traffic control, have raised your marks in this section. There is a degree of excellence in many parts of the square and the newly developed Seanchaí and the house beside it are important additions to previous developments. The castle, forever an imposing feature even from a mile out of town is now getting the long promised development it deserves. Well done on your new Millennium Limestone Arch, which is quite dramatic as you turn the bend and cross the bridge from the Tarbert approach. The Listowel Races sign, though neat in itself should be repositioned from its current location. The new toilets in Market Square are excellent. As ever, the many traditional and new shopfronts are an important part of the established character of Listowel and it is good to witness this distinction being maintained. The river bridge – one of the finest in the country was richly embellished with good floral display. Well done on the treatment of Astor Cinema.

### **LANDSCAPING**

You have a varied display of flowers, shrubs, trees and hedges throughout the town and in the town park. The high maintenance demand is acknowledged and your ability to motivate individual commercial operations and statutory bodies and local authorities to play their part is commendable, and necessary, it must be said. The new car park, keeping a touch of practical nostalgia by use of railway sleepers is an important addition to keeping your streets free of traffic.

The town park has all the ingredients of landscape beauty – river walk, flowers, shrubs and trees (mature and new) all combining to present a place of great tranquillity, especially the award winning Garden of Europe. There is an attractive cluster of tree planting at McKennas Corner and along the new Lartigue Site railings, some good and welcome oak

too. Also on the new John B. Keane road there is an attractive display of roadside shrubbery, and a lone surviving oak tree. Sheehy Park boundary could be improved, painting the park entrance would enhance.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The display board and nesting boxes erected are good and will help popularise the wildlife of the area. The river and environs offer great scope for further wildlife promotion. Even listing the local popular wildlife to include fishlife will be beneficial.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Not surprising your greatest day to day challenge is in litter control. You have worked hard in your efforts and there seems to be a concerted effort to conquer this national problem. Some litter was evident on the river walk near the mature trees. On a two day inspection, the square was well controlled and local authority staff in evidence looking after the litter in the bins. Well done on your golden broom project. Involving all sections of the community is the key and you are endeavouring to do this.

## **TIDINESS**

Your problems here relate to unfinished building sites and some unattended open spaces. Could the old tower at the cemetery be improved without demolishing it?. The screening of the recycling unit is good. The livestock mart, a common feature in Ireland it appears, could be much improved. With new restrictions and emphasis on cattle and sheep movement one can expect an improved presentation at our marts. Even painting the rusty sheds would improve. The yard adjacent to the recycling is a let down and needs urgent attention. The Listowel Civic Centre has improved from a high standard and is now further enhanced with good landscaping.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The standard of houses throughout is good. The new developments will need good finishing and appropriate landscaping. The houses being developed near the Lartigue Station are a good example of appropriate indigenous infill. Could this concept be applied in other parts of the town? A great boost to Listowel is the high number of occupants living on the premises and avoiding excessive "lock ups" at night.

Residents Associations at the various estates is the way forward and gives a sense of responsibility and inclusion to occupants, well done. Your own local competition is very much part of this no doubt.

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

Road structures and surface dressing are good and well defined. Signage is good too and the small brown and white signs do assist pedestrians. Traffic control, considering the

absence of a by-pass, is good and one way streets are effective.

### **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The town looked really well on a July adjudication. New developments, like most provincial towns are very much in evidence. The challenge here is to ensure that the old and the new are compatible. Keep up the pressure for putting electricity and Eircom services underground and encourage further the use of local traditional features. Having Heritage Town Status come with a price, a price of expectation for going the extra mile in your endeavours, we wish you well.

### **SECOND ADJUDICATION (08/08/01)**

It is some time since this adjudicator was last in Listowel. The improvements which have been brought about in the intervening period are overwhelming! However there are still details to be tackled with relatively little extra effort: e.g., the overgrowth on the fine stone walls on the Tralee approach could be cut back. The riverside on a sunny afternoon looked beautiful. The square has certainly been transformed and now appears of civic quality. Litter seemed to be well under control despite a few papers and a can blowing in the wind on William Street. Painting was in progress on several buildings, drawing attention to the occasional shabby one nearby. The streets of stone terraces are always enjoyed. The Garda Station looked particularly splendid. With more attention to peripheral areas you could rapidly progress through the ranks of the competition. We look forward to returning next year and wish you well with your future endeavours!