

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SNEEM**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-08-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	41
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	27
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	34
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	247	243

Sneem, 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. This matter was also raised in the 2000 adjudicator's Report for Sneem. It is a requirement of all entrants that a 3-Year Plan be submitted with the entry.

Progress in the competition will be dependent on everyone working towards the same ends. With this in mind you must prepare a "3 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 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.

The adjudicator found your planting programme most detailed, and indeed you have done much good work in the past year in regard to planting in many locations in and around Sneem. The Plans for the Pier Road Garden and the Barbecue area were also most helpful.

A Map of Sneem was not provided for the adjudicator, and perhaps one can be included with your entry for 2002.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The presentation of the built environment in Sneem is indeed impressive both in the high level of community commitment that it demonstrates, and the visual appearance created by so much re-painting. The School is an excellent example of this. Here the colour chosen is excellent and the painting is complimented by a very good display of plants and flowers. Nearby, the Garda Station with the unusual colour scheme of blue and yellow is highly effective and is a very eye-catching building. The Pier area is well presented and the development of a new self-catering property at the Pier is noted. Hopefully there are suitable landscaping plans for the interesting natural rock area to the side of the house. The boat-house near here should be re-painted for 2002. On the road back from the Pier to the village centre the backs of many buildings are on view, and some of these areas of buildings need early attention in terms of re-painting. Across the estuary the Camping Park, Church and Community Centre all are well presented and are being well maintained.

LANDSCAPING

The heavy planting programme referred to at the start of this Report is so obvious throughout Sneem. The adjudicator notes your adopted policy of planting for the long term, and this is a very sensible decision. There are many areas of excellent landscaping in Sneem and the new planting on the Waterville approach looks well. Hanging baskets, window boxes and flower tubs all combine to give Sneem a very vibrant colourful appearance. However do not overdo the concept of window boxes and hanging baskets. Too many could tend to over-power the architectural features of Sneem. Stone walls are another key characteristic of Sneem and they are being very well maintained. Low stone walls here combined with natural vegetation look well in a number of different areas in the village centre, and on approach roads.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The River Walk and nearby Wildlife Park and area are very attractive features of Sneem and do much to encourage wildlife. Likewise the natural vegetation of trees and shrubs provides excellent wildlife cover. Do remember that hedges should not be cut before July if the needs of wildlife are to be given appropriate consideration.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control of adjudication day was really quite good and only occasional litter was noted. Litter was seen on the Kenmare approach road, at North Square and in the river by the road-bridge – both sides. Even these low levels of litter are unacceptable in an entry with a track record like that of Sneem.

TIDINESS

Untidy open spaces were noted on the approach to the village from Kenmare. Two abandoned cars visible from the main road were also noted on this approach road. An old concrete mixer was noted from this approach road also. These matters should receive your attention in co-operation with the owners for 2002. Your adjudicator in the past has written about the retail displays on pavements and this continues to be a serious problem. Indeed this has extended to some car parking spaces. These pavement displays can cause major problems for the disabled, apart from the untidy appearance that they can create. Your Committee in co-operation with all the traders in Sneem should try and work out a policy on this matter that can be implemented from 2002.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The vast majority of residential areas are excellently presented with mature landscaping. The majority of premises appear to have been re-painted recently. Residents are playing a key role in the overall presentation of Sneem and they are to be congratulated for this.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads to Sneem are very well presented, grass verges are in general well kept and there is a welcoming feel created but this high standard of presentation. Your new planting was noted on a number of the approach roads. On the Kenmare approach the two timber pallets blocking a hole in the fencing is unfortunate and needs urgent attention. A number of the Sneem name plates (green) have become scratched and need either re-painting or replacement at an early date. Watch out for clutters of directional road signs. These look untidy and are very confusion for the motorist. Can there be some agreement on rationalisation? ON the approach road towards the Pharmacy weed growth is beginning in the gravel in the verge and is beginning to look untidy.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Sneem is a delightful village full of architectural and natural character. Your Committee continues to do good work. As a priority do get your Action Plan underway – this is a document that you should prepare yourselves.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (07/08/01)

Sneem, on a bright blustery afternoon was thronged with visitors enjoying the numerous amenities around the village. It is some years since this adjudicator was last in the village and it was pleasing to see the development and enhancement of so many previously problematic areas. Please do take account of the above comments to reinstate your former position in the competition as the standard annually, on a national basis, improves. Some building sites were creating a temporary level of untidiness but of more concern as previously mentioned is the persistent clutter outside the commercial premises. This clutter can, it is believed, be reconciled with the interest of commerce. The greens were as always beautifully maintained. Scarcely a scrap of litter was to be seen this time - a commendable achievement in view of the number of visitors. Seaview was looking particularly well this year. We wish you well with your future endeavours!