

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TRALEE**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 14-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	32
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	28	27
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	206	203

Tralee, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for the completed questionnaire, street map of the town and environs and copy of review of work programme. There are a large number of housing developments taking place in the town and its outlying area and maybe an updated list of these might be of benefit to the adjudication process in the future. The committee has worked very hard to involve all sections of the Tralee community in the Tidy Towns effort. The collective effort is paying off, as the town looked remarkably well on what was a very busy day. It is good to see that the Tidy Towns Committee has a worthwhile input to the overall development of the town by virtue of its contacts with the Urban Council and other relevant bodies.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Tralee is a town that has developed dramatically over the last number of years, major new building projects have taken place in that period. It is worth noting that these new buildings have blended in well with the existing architecture and added to the attractiveness of the streetscapes especially in the core area of the town around the Mall Old Market area, Denny and Castle Streets. There seems to be a unique attractiveness about some of the older buildings in the Town. Many have been revitalised but have not lost their original appeal. It was noticeable that many businesses had bi-lingual signs, which indicates that the feel for the Irish language is still strong in Tralee. Another aspect of the town is that it has a number of quaintly named lanes, well kept might I add, like Bill Booleys Lane. It would be interesting to know the origin of these but that is for another day. Tralee is not without its problems and that has to be expected given the size of the town. Derelict buildings were to be observed in a number of central as well as outlying areas of the town. It serves no purpose to list all these suffice to say that the Committee be aware of the problem and that steps are taken address the issue in the best manner possible. In contrast to the last point there are so many positive comments that one could make about the standard of presentation of buildings that were viewed in the town and on the outskirts. Efforts were made to retain traditional shop fronts without reverting to the "pseudo traditional type". The following are a cross section premises, public, private and commercial that appealed to this adjudicator O Dwyers Old Railway Bar, Pocotts Restaurant and the Credit Union Building on Ashe Street. Coisceim in the Old Market area has a nice simple shop front. The Old Kings Arms Inn in Rock Street dates back to the beginning of the 19th Century and is an example of the old architecture of the town, it certainly hasn't been enhanced by the signs for a Chinese Restaurant. Vales Pub is a nice traditional type town pub and is in an area synonymous with Kerry football. Both St Johns Churches were well presented, as was the Presentation

Convent. Other public buildings such as the VEC offices and the offices of Kerry County Council were also well maintained. The other main buildings that one associates with Tralee namely the Ashe Memorial Hall, The Aqua Dome and Siamsa Tire were all maintained to a high standard even allowing for the throughput of visitors that was evident on the day. On the outskirts of the town Ballygarry House was looking particularly well with extremely clean adjoining surrounds. The new Technology Park as well as being an asset to the town economically will also be an impressive building when completed.

LANDSCAPING

The standard in this category was quite good and more new planting arrangements were evident this year. The Town Park had an array of excellent flower arrangements especially some excellent rose beds. Unfortunately the railings of the Park are rusting and in need of immediate attention. The Abbeygate Hotel had a very nice shrub arrangement, the trees in the mall were well protected from any potential damage. Some of the flower tubs in this area and the immediate surrounds need to be attended to as they were becoming a little tatty. On the outskirts of the town there were many nice floral arrangements to be seen in individual gardens. The Clash Industrial Estate and indeed Monavalley has benefited from prudent tree and shrub planting over the years. Overall the standard as stated was very good but it is important to note that the more planting arrangements that are put in place the greater the level of maintenance that is needed.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The application does not make any reference to new initiatives in this category, which is more the pity as there are so many natural habitats in and around the town. I would hope that, with the assistance of the Urban Council and the many schools in the town, the Committee consider a project, no matter how small, prior to next year's competition. The community as a whole will be the beneficiaries of any such project

LITTER CONTROL

The amount of litter visible in a town of Tralee's size, and the fact that it was a weekend, was miniscule. The outlying estates such as Connolly Park, St Brendan's, as well as built up areas like Moyderwell all had good litter control and sufficient bins in place. There are one or two problematic areas that will have to be monitored on a regular basis - these are aligned to places of entertainment.

TIDINESS

This was a category that needs to be constantly monitored as the standard on the day was slightly mixed. The first thing that strikes you when you enter a town of Tralee's size is that progress has brought its own downsides in the form of a proliferation of advertising hoardings, some of which are

hideous. There are a number of obvious derelict or near derelict houses in Church Street and in the Old Market area and also in one of the towns most noted areas Boherboy. There were a number of untidy back areas especially one near the Omniplex in St Mary's Street. But in contrast to this many business premises had their respective properties nice and tidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are a myriad of both older and recently developed housing schemes and to get around all would have taken an inordinate amount of time. What follows is an overview of a cross section. Leedale on the Ardfert Road is an example of a well kept mature area similarly Ard Channaigh which has nice identification signs. Derrylea and Laurel Court on the Listowel Road were very presentable and the residents had some very nice attractive gardens. It was noticeable that common areas in these estates were neat and tidy. The Lohercannon Estate with its cottage type residences was enhanced by some excellent planting and well kept green area. The more established areas like St Johns Park, O Rahillys Villas, St Brendans Park and the very large estate at Balloonagh have made efforts to maintain a high standard of presentation. Boherboy has suffered a little due to derelict premises. Overall the standard was quite good and credit is due to all local residents.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The main entrances to the town were very presentable but some of the link roads were a little untidy. The Listowel entrance was very impressive similarly the Ardfert Entrance except for all those Developers Advertising hoardings. The Castlemaine Road was not so good primarily because of the poor standard of the road and adjoining paths. Infrastructural work by way of new paths and road surface is ongoing on the road up to the Technology Park and this will transform this whole area when completed. The Dingle Road to the peninsula, which has an amazing throughput of traffic, was a little mixed in standards.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Like many other similar sized towns in Ireland there have been many changes in Tralee over the last number of years. This has led to both an increase in the population and also in the volume of traffic through the town. Despite these changes the Town has retained its own particular identity and its uniqueness. The Committee has worked hard to foster tidy towns and has encouraged all sections of the community to contribute. Tralee has done well in the competition to date and will continue that train if the same level of effort is forthcoming from the public.