

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **DINGLE**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	39
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	218	214

Dingle, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Dingle is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. The town, which is an old fishing port, enjoys a magnificent setting against a backdrop of hills. There are excellent scenic views both into the town from approach roads and from the town to surrounding hills and sea. Developments in Dingle in recent years have enhanced the quality of life for all, well done. In particular we admire your initiative of approaching developers regarding respect for existing design etc. and you are being considered for the Care and Enhancement of the Environment Heritage Award for this initiative.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The majority of properties are very well presented and the town has a successful mix of single storey, two storey and three storey properties, many of which retain their traditional features. Those that were especially admired include the Half Door and Lizabeth Mulcahy. Both are being recommended for the Shopfront Award. The Bridge House is an important focal point in the townscape and its redevelopment / refurbishment must be sympathetic to its setting in terms of use and design features.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaped verges marking the entrance from the Annascaul road were admired. Tree planting is suggested to screen or ameliorate the harsh visual effects of the timber yards on the Sley Head road. Flower and shrub displays at various locations around the town add a welcome dash of colour. Continue to plant native species and try to achieve year round colour and interest.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Dingle is, of course, famous for being host to dolphins and has a strong wildlife image. The shop for Irish wildflowers suggests that the area is important in this respect also, maybe this aspect of Dingle could be promoted further. Local walks should be identified and promoted for the benefit of residents and visitors, these should be presented to Slí na Sláinte standards.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is good, the town was adjudicated on a busy day when there were lots of visitors and scored very well under this heading. A funfair was being set up so the effects of this could not be assessed during our first visit.

TIDINESS

The village has an overall ambience of tidiness, however a number of untidy and undeveloped sites and properties featured on entering the village from the Conorpass Road, this represents a problem under this heading. The Recycling Point was well sited and generally tidy but the bags here suggests infrequent emptying. Be vigilant regarding weed growth at the base of walls and buildings etc.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The colour scheme of the terrace of residential properties on Dyke Gate Street was admired. New housing development is being accommodated nicely and in general reflect traditional design and buildings materials used and as noted above, the town is being considered for the Dúchas Irish Heritage Care and Enhancement of Environment Award. Encourage property owners to take responsibility for the roadside areas outside their boundary walls and try to achieve a consistency in presentation in this respect. Well done to residents on clean-up evenings in their own areas.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

It was a pleasure to note the wirescape free aspect along the waterfront. Generally speaking the standard of roads and footpaths was good in the main areas in the centre and less good in back areas. Car parks were quite well presented and seemed sufficient to meet the needs of the town on the day of adjudication.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Dingle is most favourable. It was bustling with activity on the day of adjudication and appears to have a lot to offer both resident and visitor. We look forward to many repeat visits.