

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KENMARE**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **C**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-08-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	45	44
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	27
Litter Control	40	36	36
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	36	36
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	265	262

Kenmare, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Kenmare is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. The size of the committee is impressive at forty four members. Sponsorship from business interests is noted as is the good working relationship with statutory bodies. Congratulations on work achieved to date and we wish you every success in the implementation of your fine plan.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The low corrugated roof of what appears to be a vacant property on the Kilgarvan entrance should be refurbished. Most buildings are well presented and some have been nominated for shopfront awards. A few buildings remain to be refurbished. The gable wall of O'Shea's which forms the corner of New Road should be painted. The Heritage Centre and Tourist Office building look superb. We look forward to the proposed redevelopment of the Market House building. Well done on the 'chimney stack' initiative.

LANDSCAPING

The Killarney entrance is beautifully landscaped with a variety of shrubs and mature, semi-mature and young trees. Incidental landscaped areas such as that marking the entrance to the stone circle are effective. The village green at the square looked splendid. The large boulder with town name is a nice touch on the entrance from the Kilgarvan road. Mature trees both in the town centre and on approach roads enhance the town and its environs wonderfully. The grounds of St. Patrick's Church look quite magnificent from the roadside.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

A lovely display of wildflowers on the river banks adjacent to the footbridge behind the square were noted during adjudication. The Kenmare Golf Club looks wonderful from the Kilgarvan Road. The many woodland areas in the environs of the town are habitats for a variety of wildlife. Glimpses of the Kenmare River through the trees on the approach from the Castletownbere road are a visual treat. The town is being considered for the Waterside Award. The Rinn na gCros development is enviable and immensely pleasurable and the international plant collection is a treasure. Well done on the publication of the brochure. The Kerry Way route is a fine amenity to have on your doorstep!

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was excellent during our visit. The commitment of the community together with the input from Kerry County Council is obvious in the presentation of the town.

Local school children are to be commended also for their involvement.

TIDINESS

The large site with open storage on the road to the stone circle could be improved upon. Is it ear-marked for development? The village was very tidy, development works in progress present a problem but it is appreciated that these will be short-lived. Well done on the rationalisation of road signs initiative and thank you for the power point presentation.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Terraces of houses along Market Street with attractive natural stone boundary walls were admired. The overall standard of presentation under this heading is excellent. Residents are to be congratulated on planting trees in their own estates. The gold medal awards to Bridge Street / Pound Lane / Market Street and Rock Street some one hundred and forty years ago are fascinating.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Fine stone walls in a good state of repair were observed throughout the town and on approach roads. Well done on the power hose cleaning of Our Lady's Bridge. The carpark on Shelbourne Street could be improved. No doubt the remaining service cables along Main Street will be ducted and leave the town centre wirescape free. Street furniture was generally well presented and incidental seated areas were appreciated.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Kenmare is a beautiful town and one which leaves a lasting favourable impression on the visitor.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (05/08/02)

Kenmare continues to look extremely well with a great array of well painted premises and carefully tended floral displays throughout the town. The Pedestrian bridge area was looking particularly well. On approach to the Stone circle the terrace of houses is a beautiful sight – as is the similar terrace on the nearby road leading back to the street (Pound Lane, Parnell Place and New Street) The charge to the see the Stone Circle is questionable. The Reenagross park is a great asset and so extensive. The pier area is well cared for and was being used by many this bank holiday weekend. The placing of flyers on car windscreens, as was occurring, to advertise a circus is both undesirable and against legislation relating to litter – this only leads to litter on the ground. The Finnihy bridge could offer a greater view if the walls were lowered a little.