

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILLARNEY**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **E**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-08-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	45
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	21
Litter Control	40	31	30
Tidiness	20	17	15
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	31
General Impression	10	9	8
TOTAL MARK	300	260	248

Killarney, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Killarney is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. The town was a pleasure to adjudicate and many new developments were noted since this adjudicator's last visit. The first glimpse of a church steeple and bell tower against a backdrop of rugged hills created a lasting impression. The Killarney Urban Masterplan concept is imaginative and bold and we look forward to the re-imagining of the town over the rest of this decade.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Citizens Information Centre needs to be cleaned and/or painted. The rusted corrugated roof behind the 'Dunnes Stores' sign should be refurbished as it catches the eye given its height. (This is located at the end of the road with the sign for St. Mary's Terrace and Bohereen na Goun.) Gable walls such as that on the J.P. Heely buildings which forms an enclosure for Bishops Lane should always be presented to a high standard. The Adams building, particularly its upper floors need cleaning or painting. J. O'Leary and the Killarney bookshop on the Main Street look really well. The Fairview Guesthouse looks superb. The Bricín property is beautifully presented is being considered for the Irish Shopfront Award. Well done to the Tidy Towns Group on contacting developers regarding the integration of new developments into the existing fabric of the town. The Church of the Resurrection was particularly admired.

LANDSCAPING

Congratulations on your success in 'Entente Florale'. Killarney is blessed with fine stands of mature trees of several varieties. Magnificent old pines were noted at several locations and we admire your plan to clean out the Pine Wood. The Fern Garden is an exciting development also. It is good to note that there is not an over-reliance on annuals and bedding plants as permanent planting provides a heritage for future generations. The provision of a hedgerow might be considered along the stretch of concrete post fencing located opposite the sports grounds if the enclosed site is not due for redevelopment soon.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The Deenagh River Walk is being considered for both the Wildlife and the Inclusive Access Awards. We wish you success in further developments here. The Deer and Wildlife viewing areas add a new dimension to the amenity value of Killarney. The bird life programme involving school children will open up new areas of interest for future generations.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was quite good throughout the town, however some litter was noted in the centre and on Upper Lewis Street. However, this was not a serious problem. Initiatives under this heading such as the Composting and Recycling Scheme, the mulching service and the appointment of a full time litter warden demonstrate a firm resolve to overcoming the problem of litter and a commitment to the environment. Litter bins on the Main Street need to be refurbished. The receptacles on top of the litter bins on High Street for cigarette ends are a good idea.

TIDINESS

The derelict petrol pumps are still present at the top of High Street. Bottle banks appear to be adequate in the town. Well done on work achieved in regard to fencing and gates. We wish you well also in your effort to improve the Industrial Estates. The retaining wall of many lanes need upgrading.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Residential developments are well presented overall. Greens are being well maintained and local tree planting is evident. Very often roadside boundary walls are forgotten as is the case at Allman's Terrace. Encourage residents to be mindful of areas immediately outside of boundary walls.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The grouping of signage looks well. Hopefully with the new imaging of Killarney, lanes will be refurbished also, walls need to be cleaned and painted in many cases. It is good to note the absence of wirescape along High Street and Main Street and street lighting attached to buildings. Roundabouts look well with a successful mix of permanent planting and bedding plants. Many stretches of well surfaced footpaths and roads were evidenced and the provision of car parking was well organised. Street furniture, especially litter bins and the posts of road signs could be improved. The visual impact of the fun fair was minimised by its enclosure with a stone wall and tree planting.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Killarney is one where there is a deep commitment to the environment. Well done to all involved!

SECOND ADJUDICATION (06/08/02)

It is always a pleasure to visit Killarney and see the high quality standards pertaining through the town and surrounds. The efforts made by the accommodation sector in presentation of gardens and floral decorations deserves great credit. The grounds of the Scotts Garden, Killarney Park, Towers and Avenue Hotels contribute very well in their location in Killarney. Some weeds at the statue of Christ the King are unwelcome.

Killarney is served well with large car parks - some of these would be enhanced with tree plantings in narrow islands to break up the vast sight of parked cars. Also some specimen tree planting at the Cathedral grounds would be attractive in the such vast areas available. The Cedar tree planted will be attractive for future generations – this requires a tall stake so that the weeping habit will not be permitted until it reaches a much greater height. For any further plantings here large sized semi mature specimens should be chosen. The Deenagh River Walk is a marvelous experience and access to this at so many points is very helpful. There is an urgent need for a pedestrian crossing from the cathedral to the National park – this becomes every obvious on observation in a short time. The areas around the library, ESB and adjacent carpark are wonderfully landscaped. The many laneways through the streets are attractive – Flemings , Barry’s and Newmarket. These give pleasant relief from the traffic. Further upgrading in some lanes will be welcome. Hopefully the AIB building will be utilised shortly as it occupies such a prominent position .The Church of Ireland grounds with the tall pine tree and attractive railings as well as the Methodist Church and grounds add great character to the town centre. Litter control is very good and the amount of cleansing taking place early in the morning was heartening. Some small amounts of litter were noted however - particularly at the carpark by the Library and at the entrances to the National Park at the Cathedral.