

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LISTOWEL**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **D**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-08-2002

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2002 | Mark Awarded 2001 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 44 | 44 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 36 | 35 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 35 | 34 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 25 | 23 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 29 | 29 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 15 | 14 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 23 | 23 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 32 | 32 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 247 | 242 |

Listowel, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Listowel is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. The town enjoys a magnificent setting on the banks of the River Feale, set amidst low hills and lush countryside. Thank you for your very thorough submission this year, which facilitated adjudication. The T.A.B.L.E. initiative is to be admired and we look forward to the fruits of the work of this organisation over the coming years. We also look forward to your strategic plan next year but note with interest the contents of your current plan. The Lartigue Monorail Project is an exciting development which adds a new dimension to the amenity value of Listowel. The committee obviously has a good working relationship with statutory bodies and commercial interests. Your activities promoting what is unique to Listowel are impressive and will ensure the retention of Listowel's heritage in the face of future development. The town is being considered for several awards.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Newly refurbished buildings and redeveloped sites throughout the town have been noted. Well Done. This is a grand achievement. Work in progress is obvious also. The Listowel Civic Centre is a handsome development and landscaping here was much admired. Derelict buildings in the environs of the Supervalu car park will no doubt be redeveloped in due course. Encourage property owners to keep window and door apertures of derelict premises brightly painted and in a good state of repair as an interim measure. The square, as always, continues to impress and we await with interest for the redevelopment of the Castle. The town is blessed with a variety of architectural styles and there are many superb shopfront presentations. All that remains is for the remaining small number of properties, such as the Advance Pit Stop property, to be presented to the standard which has become synonymous with Listowel. Moloney's Bar could be improved in its presentation, it occupies an important strategic site in the town square and is a key element in the townscape.

LANDSCAPING

The nicely landscaped grounds marking the entrance to the burial grounds on the Ballybunion Road were spoiled somewhat by over growth. The industrial estate on the Ballylongford Road is beautifully presented, hopefully the grounds of the units for sale will be presented to a similar standard. Landscaped verges near the Fire Station were over grown and some stretches were underdeveloped. The climbers on the wall on the John B. Keane road are establishing themselves well and should make a strong visual impact here. The Town Park and the Garden of Europe are wonderful amenities.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river bank amenity area is superb, both in design and presentation. The new

Millennium Arch marking the entrance is a most attractive feature and the barrels here will, no doubt, be removed in due course and the entrance resurfaced. Well done on wildlife surveys. Your information boards on plants along the river walk will enhance awareness by the general public. Congratulations on the bird nesting boxes and the salmon resting pools on the river. The sounds of wild fowl and bird song during adjudication was appreciated.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was quite good during adjudication, however there were some lapses. The most serious litter weak spot was in the environs of the Tourist Office in the town square. The town appears to be well endowed with litter bins and these had plenty of capacity. Some tightening up of the litter control effort may be required. Congratulations on the increase in detection of litter offences and accompanying revenue from litter fines. Well done also on the acquisition of the pedestrian road sweeper.

TIDINESS

Sporadic outbreaks of weed growth along kerbs were noted out the Ballybunion road. No doubt all building materials will be removed completely on the completion of projects. The unscreened curtilage area of the Feale Valley Furniture Manufacturers premises is an eyesore. Are there plans for the future development of this site? If not, the minimum requirement is that the site should be screened from public view. The Bottle Banks in the carpark were overflowing on the day of adjudication, which was a pity as otherwise the entire area around the bottle banks was quite tidy.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

New residential developments are attractive in their standard of finish and presentation and hopefully new residents will make their contribution to the Tidy Towns initiative and the environment of the town. The single storey dwellings at the Ballybunion end of the town were admired and indeed most of the older dwellings throughout the town. The new Slí na Speire residential development looks promising. Keep up the effort to have all boundary walls and roadside areas presented to a high standard.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The car park beside the Civic Centre is presented to the highest standard and landscaping here is establishing itself well. The majority of signs are maintained to a high standard, one or two however were broken and in need of refurbishment, one being the sign for the Civic Centre. The timber signs for the picnic area and the Garden of Europe need to be repainted. The sculpture and neat grounds of the industrial premises marking the entrance from the Tralee road are impressive. Some items of street furniture in the town square need to be touched up by painting. Work in progress on footpaths and resurfacing in general was noted.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Listowel is an attractive rural town with many fine developments in recent years, which make it a pleasure to visit on any occasion.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (06/08/02)

Listowel was looking very well on second adjudication although with the pressure of extra tourists the litter situation was not as good as expected with litter noted on the streets, by the riverside walk behind the castle, at the town park and particularly at the areas behind the SuperValu carpark. Litter and a poor state of upkeep were observed in the area beneath the two large Pine trees above the carpark close to the back of the Catholic Church. The square is the great centerpiece of Listowel and standards of paving, business and residential properties are of high quality standard here. The absence of overhead cables in many places in the town is a major benefit. The burial grounds mentioned above on the Ballybunion road were visited in the hope of improvement as was the Famine Cemetery where some weeding had taken place but really a much higher standard should pertain in such auspicious places. The Millennium Arch is a good structure and the barrels were not seen as mentioned above. The entire area of the carpark behind Supervalu where the unsightly backs of buildings becomes revealed is a problem similar to what many towns are experiencing when areas are opened up at the back of buildings. A master plan to resolve this challenge is needed. A visit to the Gardens of Europe and a walk by the river is always a very pleasant experience when in Listowel.