

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **SNEEM**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 05-08-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	40
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	27
Litter Control	40	35	34
Tidiness	20	16	13
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	35
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	253	247

Sneem, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Sneem is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. The support you receive from the local community is admirable in terms of fund raising and voluntary work for litter patrols, clean-up and the maintenance of greens and gardens, well done. Congratulations on your excellent working relationship with FAS and the local school. We wish you well in fostering better links with other statutory bodies. The problem of traffic congestion is appreciated with up to seventy five buses in the town each day during the summer. Your plan to provide alternative parking arrangements (other than in the town square) is most worthwhile. It is not too much to expect visitors to walk a few hundred yards to the village centre from the pier. We wish you well in the acquisition of the field at the rear of the Post Office for coach parking. Sneem is being considered for many awards.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The proposed redevelopment of the old Court House is appropriate and we look forward to its completion. Your plans for the old Boat House is interesting and this adjudicator looks forward to sampling the facilities of the proposed Fitness Centre. Well done for work accomplished to date at the Pier House and Soup Kitchen. The yellow house looked particularly well, congratulations. The Garda Station is well presented as is the school. The plastic awnings on the stone house are somewhat outdated. The Sacré Coeur Restaurant was, as always, much admired. The majority of buildings are being maintained to a high standard. A sign should now be provided for the Enterprise Centre (old Ballroom).

LANDSCAPING

The garden for the visually impaired is an excellent development and was enjoyed by the adjudicator. Your change to perennial planting to replace annual planting will ensure seasonal interest throughout the year. Ensure the use of native species as these will attract wildlife. Sculpture at all locations was admired.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your plans under this heading are impressive to say the least. What you have achieved to date is equally impressive. The river banks are a visually important part of Sneem in addition to being an important wildlife habitat. Making wildlife and natural amenity development wheelchair friendly is a significant development.

LITTER CONTROL

Your three daily litter patrols together with the co-operation of children, the school litter

patrol and the late night patrol by the owner of the chip shop, have made an enormous contribution to litter management in Sneem. During adjudication hardly any litter was seen, congratulations! We appreciate that everything that is humanly possible is being undertaken to keep Sneem litter free and that there is continuous round the clock voluntary clean-ups. This is reflected in your marks under this heading.

TIDINESS

The standard of presentation and general tidiness of the public toilets is exemplary and the people responsible are to be congratulated. Again we wish you well in your initiative to have the modest toilet facility transferred to a larger, more modern public convenience. The Recycling Point is appropriately located and is very tidy. The plethora of signs at the junction beyond the sports grounds is somewhat visually obtrusive.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Well done for work achieved at Sea View. Residential areas and residential properties in the centre are presented to a high standard. The terrace of residential properties on entering the village from the sports grounds boasts an attractive colour scheme and is well maintained. The colour scheme in Sea View was admired also together with landscaping and neatly maintained green areas. Some properties near Goonissig View need to be painted to their boundary walls. It is hoped that new residents in the village will have a significant input into the Tidy Towns effort.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Congratulations on the numbers, standards and different designs of stone walls around the town. The bridge development (viewing platform) is an excellent initiative and we trust that your activities will ease traffic flow on the bridge eventually. Congratulations to the young people involved in the Youth Patrol. The road at the entrance to the sports grounds is still badly potholed. The area around the raised bed on the Waterville road needs to be resurfaced. Another potholed road was noted leading to the church. The well surfaced road to the quay was appreciated, particularly along its roadside edges. Flowering shrubs have matured nicely along all approach roads. Most street furniture looks well and the new carved stone plaques around the village were admired.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Sneem is a beautiful village and is high on the agenda of the travelling public. The difficulties this presents for the committee and the community is appreciated. Well done on building your plan on a foundation of Agenda 21 principles.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (05/08/02)

Despite the bad weather during the summer the standard of painting of buildings seems to have been kept up well with painting even taking place during the visit. The colourful

array of buildings gives Sneem a very cheerful look. The “bridge lookout” has become a great feature and was being fully availed of by many visitors admiring the river view. This is a marvelous feature and one that could be copied in many towns and villages in Ireland. Also the exit from the wall is very welcome making it possible to walk out the other end of the bridge walk. The riverside walks and all the features it leads to represent great enterprise and imagination. Even with the huge number of visiting tourists the village was very clean. The two Morris Minor cars on the roof of the Harbour View Hostel are an interesting addition to the village. It would be great to have the overhead cables removed to underground.