

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **TRALEE**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **F**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	32
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	213	206

Tralee, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Tralee is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. The sponsorship from Garveys SuperValu and Town and County Councils is an important achievement. Thank you for details of work achieved to date and we wish the committee every success in future projects. The increase in population size and volume of traffic presents new challenges and opportunities.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

New developments along Maine Street including the Ivy Gate Hotel enhance this area of the town. The Duggans Garage Fiat building is an important focal point from Church Street and should be refurbished to its roadside façade. Both the Courthouse and the Bank of Ireland properties are fine buildings and Quality Hotel Tralee is impressive also. A number of buildings on Castle Street Upper and Sullivan's Lane are in need of refurbishment. The Bus Station itself looks really well and car parking arrangements here are neat. The carpark located across from the Bus Station, whilst it is neat itself, is surrounded by an undeveloped site and poor walls and outbuildings. Presumably this entire area is due for redevelopment.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaped roundabouts marking the entrance from the N21 / N22 are beautiful and it is good to note that they feature permanent planting. Young trees defining car parking spaces on Bohar Bui are maturing nicely. Landscaping in the environs of the Aqua Dome is generous and establishing itself well. The O'Rahilly Memorial Park is an example of fine incidental landscaping. High weather stained walls on Matt Talbot road would benefit from planting with climbing plants or from power hosing. The walls and entrance gates to the sports grounds could be power hosed and perhaps planted also. We note that the old sports grounds appear to be for sale, it is anticipated that their redevelopment will be sensitive to the townscape.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The graveyard on the N21 / N22 is being neatly maintained. The river walk along the Dingle road towards Blenerville was being enjoyed by many on the evening of adjudication. The designation of an area of the town park as a wildflower meadow is appreciated as is your on-going tree planting programme. Try to ensure native species are used as much as possible to encourage wildlife.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was weak along Pembroke road but was good overall around the town. Well done on the recruitment of an additional litter warden and the litter and tidiness awareness programme.

TIDINESS

There was a proliferation of weed growth at several locations in the town. Derelict walls located across from Noyeks on the N21 are an eyesore, however the stand of mature trees behind the walls are quite magnificent. An amount of gravel / building materials was noted at an entrance just beyond the Aqua Dome. A derelict / undeveloped site at the corner of Mary Street and near the Ivy Terrace might be screened if it is not to be developed soon. The footpath out the Dingle road needs to be refurbished and maintained free of weed growth. A derelict site enclosed by high walls on Pembroke road was noted together with a building on Rock Street. A tattered advertisement hoarding for 'Guinness' at the Bus Station looked really bad.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

New residential developments are nicely presented and most are sitting into the townscape well. The Woodland residential development on the Listowel entrance is impressive with its neatly manicured lawns. The many roadside boundary walls to properties along the Listowel entrance need to be cleaned and / or painted. Encourage residents to extend their attention and effort to areas immediately outside of their boundary walls. We look forward to the proposed sculpture at Ballyrickard Court Housing Estate.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The new black and gold street furniture looks well. Older street furniture such as traffic lights, posts could be refurbished. Continue to reveal stone walls by cutting back growth in outlying areas. New stone walls at Lios na Liothart and Cluain Ard residential developments together with newly surfaced roads make a wonderful entrance into Tralee at this part of the town. Some items of street furniture such as service boxes are graffitied. Pedestrian hand rail barriers could be improved also. Wirescape on Rock Street is visually obtrusive. The landscaped brick and gravel roundabouts at the junction of Rock Street and Ash Street were admired.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall appearance of Tralee is favourable and amenity developments such as the Rose Garden in the Town Park and the walk out the Dingle road were enjoyed by the adjudicator with a visit to the Tom Crean Antarctic Exhibition.