

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dingle**

Ref: **727**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **224**

Category: **C**

Date: **04/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	40
The Built Environment	40	36	34
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	28	27
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	224	218

Overall Developmental Approach:

Noting the data submitted with your application and looking at the overall aspect of the town, the Committee is obviously employing a coordinated approach to making Dingle a better town. It is a uniquely located town with an abundance of natural characteristics. The challenge now for the Committee and the community as a whole is how to enhance the town generally in the context of continued development. However, it does appear as if a good balance is being achieved and the community should ensure that this continues for the future.

The Built Environment:

The standard of buildings generally throughout the town is good. There is much development taking place and care must be taken that such development, as far as possible, blends in with the many fine old features in buildings throughout the town. The Dingle Library premises and the old Courthouse in the Mall are attractive old buildings which are excellently maintained. Also, the church of St. Mary's and that of St. James are beautiful old buildings which are excellently presented. In Goat St. Halla na Measarthachta, The Temperance Hall looks well and is well presented. The new building at Dingle Marina looks well and is well presented. New shopfronts in the town with Irish signs, such as "An Gailleiri Beag" in Main St. and "Siopa" in Green St. are welcome. Other buildings, such as the Garda Station and Post Office were well presented.

Landscaping:

The landscaping at the Annascaul end of the town was well maintained and looked impressive. The landscaping at the entrance to the Aquarium also looked well. Some flower tubs along Strand St. enhanced the area. An unusual flower planting project was noted at the Marina area where a disused boat was planted with colourful flowers adding an unique show of colour to this area. The planting close to the Marina also looked impressive. Planting at the entrance to Ocean World was well maintained. The flower tubs at the entrance to the Craft Village looked well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Having such a fine natural location, with both land and water in the vicinity, must provide suitable habitats for various species of wildlife. Some of the marine species attracted to the area are well noted, but perhaps more additional information may be made available on other wildlife species which frequent the area. The Mall River stretch viewed from the street is clean and attractive and is a pleasant amenity within the town area.

Litter Control:

The efforts which you are making in relation to litter do seem to be having some success as streets throughout the town were generally free of litter. There was some litter in the area such as in open spaces along Spa Road. The Bridge area was free of litter. Perhaps through the Newsletter, local competitions etc., there is an awareness being created in relation to litter and these efforts should be persisted with for the future.

Tidiness:

The busy areas of the harbour, pier and Marina were generally tidy. The entrance to the Craft Village was very tidy. The street/footpath at "The Wood" was quite tidy. Bothar an Phoist - Mail Road was very tidy and clean. The area around the Bottle Bank was also very tidy. The area adjoining the ESB premises on "The Wood" road were quite untidy and overgrown. Open spaces along the Spa Road looked untidy. The Town Park was disappointing and considered to be quite untidy. This should be a very important one for the town for both the local community and visitors and perhaps should be given more of a priority for the future. Principal streets throughout the town generally were pleasantly clean and tidy.

Residential Areas:

The standard in residential areas were generally good. Houses, gardens and green areas at "the Grove" were generally well presented, as were houses and gardens along "the High Road" area. Houses and gardens on approach roads to the town were also well attended to. It is noted that there are active Residents Associations in many areas of the town and this, no doubt, contributes considerably to this aspect of the competition. The houses and gardens near the premises of Sceim Searchais an Daingean were well presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach road from Annascaul was well presented and the "Cleamhas" sign here for An Daingean and Santa Barbara was well maintained - the use of stone here is noted. The stone wall along the road to "Garda Costa na h-Eireann" looked well as did the stone wall at the entrance to Pairc an Agasaig - The GAA Field. The Ventry/Ballyferriter approach was also quite tidy. The standard of the streets throughout the town was very good. Busy streets like Main St., Green St., Strand St., The Wood etc. were clean and pleasant to walk through. The Orchard Lane area would need to be tidied up, however, as weed and grass growth was noted along the kerbs here. The stone work at the Barra an tSean Bhaile in Gort St. is attractive. The Mall was very clean and tidy and the memorial calvary here is excellently maintained. The Dolphin Sculpture at the pier area and the nearby "Undertow" in the same vicinity are unusual and attractive.

General Impression:

It is encouraging to see improvements which have come about in this town in recent years. It is a thriving fishing and tourist centre with an overall pleasant atmosphere, despite the many developments taking place. The community should watch that future developments are carefully monitored and so ensure that the traditional characteristics of the town are preserved.