

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kenmare**

Ref: **374**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **268**

Category: **D**

Date: **02/08/2003**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2003 | Mark Awarded 2002 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 46 | 45 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 36 | 35 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 35 | 35 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 27 | 27 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 36 | 36 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 17 | 16 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 26 | 26 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 36 | 36 |
| General Impression | 10 | 9 | 9 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 268 | 265 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

The committee obviously continues to follow its plan of action in a coordinated way. The efforts which the community have been making in recent years reflect very favorably on the image of the town overall. It is noted that the committee's aim is to present the town in a clean and attractive way all year round. This is an excellent objective and such an approach in itself is a challenge to the whole community.

The Built Environment:

There is a fine range of excellently maintained buildings throughout the town. Most prominent of these is the impressive Holy Cross Church which has been beautifully refurbished. The Church of Ireland Church of St. Patrick is also very well maintained. The new community school building looks impressive and blends well into that area of the town. It is a good starting point for pupils in that national schools are so well maintained, i.e. Scoil Naisiunta Clara Naofa and Scoil Naisiunta Prionnsias Naomtha were beautifully presented. The premises of the Kenmare Adult Education Centre is being tastefully maintained. The Tidy Towns Committee and the community generally are no doubt very pleased to see refurbishment work on the Market House underway. This, when completed satisfactorily and sympathetically, should prove to be a gem for the town. The garda station and adjoining grounds were excellently maintained. In the same vicinity of the town, it is noted that the former Kenmare Boys National School is being maintained so satisfactorily as a building of its time plus the fact that it is being utilised in such a worthy fashion. Business and

commercial premises throughout the town generally are maintained to a very high standard.

Landscaping:

The standard of landscaping throughout the town is of a very good standard. For example, the landscaping work at the Kilgarvan approach to the town is well maintained and looked well. The landscaping at both the Killarney and Sneem approaches are impressive. Landscaping in Scarteen Park looks very well. The mature trees in the Fair Green area of the town are a valuable asset to the town and these, together with newer planting in the vicinity, create a very pleasant atmosphere.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The town is fortunate in having such a natural environment which provides much favorable habitat for many species of wildlife. The Kenmare River is a valuable asset for the town and the community. The international plant collection within the Reenagross Park area is a splendid idea. The greater park itself, with so much mature woodland, is a valuable source of habitat for wildlife species.

Litter Control:

By designating a specific week for the purpose of creating litter awareness, the committee is highlighting an important aspect of the competition. Also, involving the pupils of the local schools, is, in itself, a very good idea in getting the message across that litter is a continuous problem for all communities. In the case of Kenmare, the message does seem to be getting through as at the time adjudication there was virtually no evidence of litter in any area of the town. Litter bins were in place at various points throughout the town and these were obviously being used. However, every community needs to continue to monitor the problem of litter and to persist in creating awareness of the problem.

Tidiness:

There was a good level of tidiness throughout the town generally. However, some areas of New Road could be tidied up. The pier area was practically tidy and well attended to; the green areas along here, seating, etc. were all excellently maintained - a most pleasant area of the town. The entrance to Faighte an Braoinig was very tidy and clean as was the entrance to Kenmare Golf Club. Busy areas like the Square, the Fair Green and the main streets of the town were all very tidy. The large car park across from the Holy Cross Church was also very tidy.

Residential Areas:

This category gives all residents in a town or village the opportunity to play a role in the competition. There are many instances of well presented houses, gardens and residential areas in the vicinity of the town. The old world houses at Victoria Terrace off Main Street and the lovely terrace of old houses along Market Street are attractive. The residential areas on all the approach roads were impressive. The houses and gardens at Ard na Greine looked well. Also, in Scarteen Park, the houses and gardens were pleasant and well maintained. The residential area of Cill Mhuire also looked excellent as did the Sunnyhill Grove area.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The old water pumps which have been preserved and maintained throughout the town are a nice feature. Those areas of the town where seating is provided are well maintained and obviously painted on a regular basis. The "yield" traffic sign positioned at the junction from Castletownbere would need to be attended to as it is almost concealed by overgrowth and could be a hazard. Also the pole for the "No Camping" sign in Scarteen Park is somewhat rusted and in need of repainting. The painting of chimneys on many buildings in the town have enhanced the overall aspect of street vistas. The gates and piers at the entrance to Killowen are well maintained. The old church ruin

here looks impressive - perhaps consideration may be given to the erection of a plaque giving a brief history.

General Impression:

The committee and the community here are obviously enthusiastic about the appearance of their town. Efforts made over the years have contributed substantially to the level of excellence which prevails throughout the town. The town is beautifully located and the community should continue with their efforts for the future.

Second Round Adjudication:

The many B&B's on the Kilgarvan Road contribute strongly to the good impression created as one enters the town on this approach. Many of the buildings in the centre of the town looked quite bright and cheerful in their presentation. A number had been improved upon since this adjudicator's last visit to the town. However, some looked slightly neglected in comparison to the high standard of the others. The Corner House is to-let and will hopefully be restored to its former glory, as it is located in a prominent position. The Wander Inn was quite patchy in places, as was the AIB bank. The standard of litter control was very good, given the busy nature of the town, particularly on a bank holiday weekend. The Market House was being attended to. It was disappointing to note that timber windows had not been used in its restoration. The large glass windows at ground floor level are aluminium and although the upper level windows are timber, they are casement, rather than the traditional sash type of window. Micky Ned's is a fine example of a new shopfront and building which respects the character of the town. The use of limestone coursing between ground and first floor levels was admired, as was the use of traditional sash windows. The garda station was simply presented. The car park opposite appears quite bare and perhaps a landscaping project could be considered in this location in order to reinstate the street-line in some way. A magnificent garden by the footbridge adjacent to the car park was admired. Some of the recycling bins had been screened - perhaps this could be extended, in order to screen the rest of them? Kenmare looked well on a busy adjudication day.