

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killarney**

Ref: **350**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **263**

Category: **E**

Date: **02/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	47	46
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	25
Litter Control	40	31	31
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	27	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	33
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>260</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

On first entering Killarney one is first impressed by how well the town integrates into the nearby surrounding beautiful countryside. This has been achieved through many years of extensive planting of trees and shrubs in the built environment of Killarney. Allied to that is the excellent integrated approach through the Killarney Master Plan, that has been adopted by Killarney Town Council, Killarney Looking Good and their associated partners in the Tidy Towns Competition. The adjudicator would like to thank the Secretary for the really excellent documentation submitted with the entry form. All documentation was used on adjudication day and this was most helpful. The very professional approach to the competition that has been adopted has been noted. The Book of Colours and the potential that the full implementation of this concept has is most significant. The Composting and Recycling Scheme is another excellent and practical initiative. In the documentation, the concept is noted that development should integrate rather than dominate. In general, this seems to be achieved in Killarney. The desire to try and co-ordinate streetscape colour is admirable but difficult to achieve.

### The Built Environment:

The plan for the Woodlands Industrial Estate is noted and the estate was visited on adjudication day. The three year plan for the Ballyspillane to Tiernabouli Industrial Estate should bring good results. At Bishop's Place, the work done here is effective and the landscaping attractive. The development of the Signage Guidelines is a most interesting initiative and the adjudicator looks forward to seeing

the results of the full implementation of this concept. The new sports and leisure centre project planned for Killarney will be a significant addition to the existing amenities in the town. The tactile paving and the audio traffic signals for pedestrians are an excellent contribution to the needs of less able residents and visitors to the town. Indeed, from a wheel chair access point of view, excellent progress has been made in the last few years in Killarney. Many buildings impress in Killarney. Buildings like the cathedral and the friary stand out and are really excellently presented. On a smaller scale, many shop fronts catch the eye and this includes premises such as Bricin, J. O'Leary Antiques, and Foley's Restaurant. Near the entrance to the Killarney House property, the foamex or similar material road sign should be replaced with a standard metal equivalent. The five year plan for Killarney House is noted in the documentation. The grounds here are excellently presented and Cherry Drive is a most attractive part of this property. A derelict building was noted towards the end of New Street and this needs early attention.

### **Landscaping:**

Landscaping is one of the very strong aspects of the overall Killarney environmental year round work, and there are so many excellent examples of extremely good work. For example, the landscaping of the main roundabouts at the entrances to the town create a great first impression on arrival in Killarney. The Deenagh River and the area of Ross Castle are other examples among many of good landscaping work. On the Ross Road there are a few field gates that would benefit from painting using bright colours. Such painting has been done elsewhere to good effect. The work at the grotto on the Rock Road was examined and the planting done here specifically for the festival is a nice touch. Among other excellent examples of colourful landscaping is the Killarney Cultural Centre and good mature landscaping was noted in the general area of the library and car park. The involvement of a number of the Killarney schools in landscaping projects is to be encouraged and hopefully many of these pupils will become future members of the many active Killarney environmental groupings. The mature planting at Main Street and New Street junctions is a major feature in the town centre and helps to soften the built environment here. The use of hanging baskets, window boxes and flower tubs are used in a restrained way that is visually effective.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Killarney town is unusual in that the high level of planting in the built environment has over the years encouraged wildlife into the town. A unique feature of the town is the possibility of viewing deer close to the centre of the town and the viewing areas are a most attractive feature. Do continue to involve some of the local schools in wildlife projects.

### **Litter Control:**

The appointment of a full-time litter warden is strongly welcomed. On adjudication day, litter control in the central core of Killarney was generally good. However outside this central area, litter was noted in a number of areas. This included the bypass road at the Cork end, the Inner Relief Road, some back lanes and East Avenue. A higher level of overall litter control was expected. The new litter bins have been noted.

### **Tidiness:**

Projecting advertising signs were noted in a number of back lanes in the town centre and this needs attention. The informal parking area at the south side of the river bridge on the Muckcross Road needs to be surfaced as the area looks quite unattractive. Near Scrahan Mews a very over grown corner open space was noted - given good landscaping this area could be quite attractive. There is a major problem in regard to the cobble-lock paving used in the town centre. While the paving is most attractive many cigarette butts were noted in several locations, lodged in the grooves between cobbles. An example of this is at the junction of Main Street and New Street. This issue should receive your early consideration.

## **Residential Areas:**

A really strong feature of the town is the high level of presentation that has been achieved in many residential areas. This includes both older and newer estates. This reflects so well on the pride that people have in their own areas. Estate that impressed included Ballyspillane, Dalton's Avenue, Ardshanvooley and Countess Grove. Many fine private gardens stand out on the Muckcross Road and Upper Lewis Road. However much litter was noted at the entrance to Pine Wood.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The Inner Relief Road is really an area of excellence that is well presented in environmental terms. All approach roads to Killarney are also well presented and give that all important first impression as you approach the town. On the bypass road, the grass on the low roadside banks has been cut, but the cut grass has not been raked and taken away. You should try and achieve a rich green grass effective here.

## **General Impression:**

The overall presentation in Killarney is of a high standard, marred here and there by some littering. The integrated approach adopted in environmental presentation is strongly welcomed by your adjudicator. Your plans for the years ahead are ambitious, but there is little doubt that your excellent work to date will provide a firm foundation for future progress.

## **Second Round Adjudication:**

The Cleeny Roundabout was admired with its aquatic sculptures. There are a large number of attractive landscaped areas throughout the town - the standard of presentation is quite strong in this aspect of the competition. Litter control was a distinct problem on the day along the main streets of the town and to the alleyways and courtyards leading off them. Litter bins were overflowing and should be emptied on a more frequent basis. Resist the temptation to "gild the lily" with an over-abundance of hanging baskets on stands. Rather you should concentrate your efforts on permanent planting and trees which look well all year round and will be of benefit for future generations. The commercial premises of the town were generally presented to a reasonable standard. However, a number of properties looked unfortunate. Sewell's Pharmacy, in its prominent location, needed attention to signage. Counihan's Travel Agents sports an abundance of plastic signage and appeared to be abandoned. Avoid removing render from vernacular shopfronts as this is not only incorrect from a conservation point of view, but can also lead to practical problems of water penetration in the future. Killarney is a busy centre which continues to perform well in the competition. Congratulations to all concerned!