

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tarbert**

Ref: **90**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **232**

Category: **B**

Date: **31/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	28	27
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	232	227

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for the well completed entry form, work programme and map. These were helpful on the day of adjudication. Tarbert has made great strides in the last number of years and the feeling of a community "pride in place" comes through. No doubt the Jordan Special Olympics Team enjoyed their stay in Tarbert where they were welcomed with flags and bunting. Your plans for the future in respect of wildlife and heritage projects seem worthwhile, bearing in mind the fact that the work already accomplished needs to be maintained.

The Built Environment:

Since last visiting Tarbert, the adjudicator noted a great improvement in the village with ninety per cent of business premises being well presented. Also, the church, schools, credit union and garda station, with its vibrant colour scheme, were well maintained. Indeed, a good use of colour was in evidence throughout the village and painting was in progress in a couple of areas during the visit. However, the boundary walls of the comprehensive school needed attention. It was noted that two prominent business outlets were for sale - the Esso Service Station and Buckley's Hardware - and hopefully the new owners will develop these to a high standard.

Landscaping:

The areas landscaped and the ongoing maintenance of same are a huge commitment in Tarbert. The two picnic areas - in the village and at the Ferry - were admired, as were the other planted areas in the village and on the approach roads. The concrete railings at the picnic area on the Glin road needed attention. An earlier start and attention to detail such as continuous weeding would further enhance any landscaped areas. At the road junction with the seated landscaped area, the flowers here were colourful and welcoming. However, we would suggest that the concrete pipes being used as containers should be replaced with wooden, terra cotta or good stone containers. The planting adjacent to housing estates, especially on the coast road, was admired. The more mature trees on this road add to the character of the village as a whole. As regards grassed areas, there was a mixture of activities as some grass areas had been cut, some needed cutting and strimming was in progress in other areas during the visit.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The various projects already undertaken and also the planting throughout the village demonstrate Tarbert's commitment in this regard. The areas of grass left in a natural state on the way to the ferry would be further enhanced by the planting of more wild flowers.

Litter Control:

Well done - litter management was considerably improved on previous adjudications and bins were strategically placed throughout the village. However, constant vigilance is necessary as there was a sprinkling of litter on the Listowel Road and also by the river on the nature trail. This latter was placed in the bin at the entrance to the trail by the adjudicator.

Tidiness:

The village presented quite a tidy appearance overall, but some kerbside weeds were visible in a couple of areas. In fact, spraying was in progress on the day of adjudication. It was noted that the wire backing to concrete fencing on the Ballylongford Road was damaged and presented an untidy appearance.

Residential Areas:

The housing estates and other residential property were well presented. The excellent signs at the entrance to the housing estates were noted. It should be remembered that surround walls are also an important part of the decor of a house.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Signage, in general, was very well maintained throughout the village. Street furniture, including water hydrants, which are now rare, were well maintained.

General Impression:

A town with potential to go further in the competition. Keep up the good work.

Second Round Adjudication:

Attractive displays of montbretia make the Listowel Road an attractive entrance to the town of Tarbert. The general impression created is of a reasonably neat and tidy centre. However, the boundary of the community school was still in need of some attention, as was the concrete fence at the picnic area on the Glin Road, both of which had been mentioned by the First Adjudicator. There was also evidence of weed and grass dumping in this location. Weed control was also a problem in the vicinity of the recycling bins and on the road to the ferry. Papers and cans were also scattered

along the roadsides in this location, although the standard of litter control on the day, elsewhere, was quite good. The community centre sported evidence of the red algae growth that is a distinct problem in marine environments. Curved canopies should be discouraged and replaced with traditional fabric awnings. The busy town of Tarbert generally created a favourable impression on the day.