

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tralee**

Ref: **744**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **214**

Category: **F**

Date: **19/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	34
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	29	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>213</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

It was noted from the entry form that the Tidy Towns Committee in Tralee view this year as one of taking stock of what has been achieved to date and planning for the future. This will mean a re-direction of the activities of the Committee. In view of the good work undertaken in Tralee over the last number of years, it is desirable that a development plan now be drawn up to consolidate this work and plan a strategy for the years ahead. However, as no details of work undertaken during the year or other documentation was submitted for 2003, marks have been lost under this heading. No doubt, on production of your new development plan, these will be regained.

### The Built Environment:

Tralee is a busy, bustling place with some fine buildings spread throughout the town. The Ashe Memorial Hall, the Catholic Church, Siamsa Tire and the Aquadome are some examples of these. At present, there are a number of new developments taking place around the town which, no doubt, will further enhance the fabric of Tralee upon completion. As previously mentioned, the main streets in the town are rather overburdened by inappropriate signage and some shopfronts which would not be in keeping with the ambience/heritage of the town. The new development plan should address these issues. As in most towns, there are derelict sites, the elimination of which will need some long term planning. It was noted that a closed petrol station and an erstwhile fabric shop "Stuff", are currently for sale. This should provide the opportunity for improvement in this regard in the not too distant future.

## **Landscaping:**

The highlight of the Adjudicator's visit to Tralee was a visit to the two public parks near the Ashe Memorial Hall. Here, the roses were magnificent and must have provided a wonderful backdrop for the El Salvador Special Olympics team who were hosted in Tralee. Perhaps this rose theme could continue into the green area by the tourist office and outdoor restaurant beside Ashe Memorial Hall. Many visitors come to this area, which is rather stark in contrast to the colour and beauty in the nearby Parks. Another area deserving of congratulation is the planting at the roundabouts throughout the town. While these are planted on a long-term basis, and don't use bedding plants, they still provide colour (especially the one near the entrance to the Aquadome) and are well maintained. The planting at the steam train halt at Blennerville was admired, except for the plastic containers used here. Some of the grassed areas throughout the town needed to be cut on the day of adjudication. The tree planting undertaken on the outskirts and throughout the town is maturing nicely and no doubt this policy will be continued in the future. The grounds around Siamsa Tire were also admired.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The planting and walks which have been developed contribute to this category. The mass of wild white daisies on the road from Listowel enhanced this entrance to the town. However, there is scope for a more specific project under this heading.

## **Litter Control:**

Very little litter was to be seen throughout on the day of adjudication and in a town the size of Tralee this is a huge achievement. The signs "Keep Tralee Litter Free" mentioning the fine involved are obviously working. Unfortunately, the most litter seen was around the Tourist Information Centre area.

## **Tidiness:**

Again, a number of areas had kerb-side weeds that should have been removed and the kerbs sprayed earlier in the year. Also the footpath out on the Dingle road needed attention. The proliferation of signs in the heart of the town, as previously mentioned, also contributes to a rather untidy appearance overall.

## **Residential Areas:**

The many private houses on the outskirts and in the many estates throughout the town are contributing to your efforts and no doubt the Award Scheme which you run for the best kept housing estates helps to raise the standard. On the Listowel approach some green areas in front of new houses need attention to finalise these developments.

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

Road surfaces were poor throughout, but signage was mostly of a good standard with some refurbishment or replacement needed in places. On the approach roads, foliage had covered some of the directional and Fáilte signs. More off-street parking would assist in enhancing the centre of the town as would the pedestrianisation, if possible, of certain streets or areas. The open space at the rear of the Omniplex Cinema is still a very visible black spot in the centre of the town.

## **General Impression:**

Tralee has the capacity to do well in the Tidy Towns Competition and is making steady progress. The

activity based Development Plan, which the Committee is at present drawing up, should be of assistance in this regard.