

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kinsale**

Ref: **56**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **266**

Category: **D**

Date: **03/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	46
The Built Environment	40	36	36
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	23
Litter Control	40	36	35
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	28	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	35
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	266	265

Overall Developmental Approach:

Kinsale has consistently worked to very comprehensive work programmes with a clear vision to the future. This year as expected Kinsale tidy towns committee has presented a very concise plan and one with excellent priorities. The material presented with the entry form was most helpful at adjudication. The results of developments are clearly evident in the town and surrounds and the considerable number of tourists present indicates an appreciation of previous efforts in attaining the success that Kinsale has achieved to date. The cooperation with public authorities and local groups is key to success.

The Built Environment:

The very many attractive shops and business premises are now becoming a hallmark of Kinsale and people enjoy strolling the streets to view these. The small number that require some attention hopefully will follow the main core. The committee is well aware of the difficult situation with derelict buildings and hopefully continuing lobbying will help to resolve these problems. The new Shearwater apartments represent a major change along the quayside. These are finished well and appear to sit comfortably within the context. The very small amount of landscaped space incorporated is a little disappointing. The reconstruction of the Trident Hotel is a welcome addition to the built environment.

The Town Hall - high above the town is a magnificent building and the gardens complement this well. The derelict building below this hopefully will be restored. Churches form an important part in

the town and the tree-lined approach to the Augustinian church from the Desmond castle side is impressive. The Market Square and Milk Market represents a very important pedestrian area and is very functional as are the surrounding pedestrianised areas. Extra pedestrian areas would be very welcome as people are much more comfortable in these than on traffic shared streets – perhaps a system of allowing traffic up to 10.00 am in the mornings would be worth consideration. The apartments by the Garda station look particularly well with their well landscape open spaces inside.

Landscaping:

The many colourful plant containers give Kinsale a unique appearance and people have come to know Kinsale especially for this feature. Window boxes, hanging baskets and containers of all types area carefully maintained and individual business premises go to great efforts to maintain these - sometimes at the peril of falling off chairs and ladders while caring for them. The small seaside garden is a lovely feature and freely accessible this year The wall enclosed area opposite the Garda station with enclosed pebble and plant is a little puzzling. The grounds at the Town Hall are a lovely find and hopefully many people get to appreciate this feature. The town park and Actons Hotel grounds contribute greatly to the landscape of the quayside. The town park was looking very smart with its well cared for grass and planting. The water features on the footpaths were not functioning and the water at the bases was very discoloured. A dead tree at the park could be removed. As Usual “Merlins Keep” garden attracts much attention and the roses were looking especially well. The gardens at Assumption Terrace area are a delight - as is the lovely climbing rose in the small alleyway from the Market Square. This shows how one such item can have such a influence in the town.. The children’s playground looks well and the Lime trees which were cut back severely in the past are now filling well and forming a lovely avenue to the Church. The Long Quay area is very attractive and the well maintained grassed areas and plantings present a very pleasant picture. Stone is used well at the wall by the carpark where the recycling bins are located

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The seaside walks and vast shoreline gives a great opportunity for appreciation of the natural environment. All efforts made to improve the interpretation of this asset are valuable. Young people in particular would benefit from encouragement and motivation to tap this vast natural resource. An accumulation of local information about the natural environment should be compiled and this could form the basis of a fund of knowledge to be made available. The wildlife signs are one aspect of providing knowledge. More proactive approaches would be welcome. The Marsh Area has interesting opportunities and hopefully the committee’s communication with the developers will yield positive results

Litter Control:

Litter levels are well managed and the vast array of recycle bins at the nearby carpark shows a very positive approach to this challenge. Some small amounts of litter were noted on street sides and on the steps to the town Hall. The level of cleanliness is very encouraging and shows that the systems in place are working very well.

Tidiness:

The main streets and quayside are very tidy. As mentioned above the derelict sites offend this regard. The carpark behind the tourist office could be improved with better surfacing and more attractive treatment of the boundaries. Back views of buildings that become exposed due to developments could be focused upon. The hard surfaced areas around the Desmond castle looked a little untidy with both litter and weeds present.

Residential Areas:

The many street side residences form an integral part of the beauty of Kinsale. These are well

maintained and give a very good impression. Apartments and housing estates continue to grow and it is well that there is an involvement of the Architectural Advisory Service in Kinsale to ensure that buildings are consistent with the tone of the town and surrounds. The un-named apartment/housing estate above the Maltus church looks very well. The Chairman's lane houses are delightful. The many estates around the town are being well cared for. More tree planting in greens, entrances to estates and anywhere where space permits within housing estates should be a priority. Coloured housing estates have become an interesting feature of Kinsale and add an interesting dimension - particularly when viewed as a group from a distance. Holiday homes, frequently unoccupied, often present problems of exterior care and maintenance – particularly in relation to gardens and ways to overcome this needs consideration.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The narrow and winding roads around Kinsale are a characteristic feature of the town. Generally good surfaces are in place with some need for attention in places. The narrowness of the streets are a little precarious for pedestrians who have to share the road with traffic and as stated above – more pedestrianisation would be welcome. The approach roads are attractive with good attention to roadside verges and approach signs.

General Impression:

As usual Kinsale impresses greatly. The care and attention to detail enhances this naturally attractive town. Traffic and parking continues to present problems and a much more pleasant environment would result from providing more pedestrianisation, the colour schemes and quality of shop and restaurant units makes Kinsale a very admirable and notable place.

Second Round Adjudication:

An other fine performance by Kinsale. Your high standard is now running for over two decades and soon you will be celebrating twenty years since you won the overall award in 1986. The town was not overbusy on a Tuesday adjudication day and it was a pleasure to traverse the many highly colourful streets at various levels. Your litter control performance was superb and earned you an extra mark in this section. This is most commendable in view of the vast amount of traffic in the town centre throughout the tourist season. You have a few problem areas needing attention: e.g., W.J. O Driscoll in The Glen, The Lighting Video (currently closed) in Pearse Street, the current state of Landbrokers is not matching the standard of its neighbours, together with The Permanent tsb. We notice most of your street signage is in English only and you are missing an opportunity to raise your marks under Bilingualism. The quality of the new litter bins is excellent. To sum up, you have scored very highly again this year and raised your marks, but some commercial outlets need improvement.