

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dingle**

Ref: **416**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **229**

Category: **C**

Date: **24/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	40	36	36
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	30	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	229	224

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for helpful submission giving details of work on hand and work planned. The map proved helpful in identifying areas under adjudication. It is many years since this adjudicator visited Dingle and to say that the town has changed is an under statement. The infrastructure developments are obvious in every direction. In particular the town centre has become one continuous commercial hive of activity, with busy traffic from an increasing tourism market. Of particular interest is the side and back area developments which can best be compared to Ennis town in Co. Clare. You have done well to preserve much of the traditional features of Dingle and for the most part new buildings are blending in well with the town's character.

The Built Environment:

Public buildings were well presented and some had colourful landscaping. The great plethora of shopfronts is a feature of Dingle and we were impressed with: Paudis Bar, Banc na hÉireann, AIB, Adams, J. Curran, Síóg, Strands of Dingle, and the Credit Union, although it would now benefit from fresh painting. Schools, churches, Library, Garda Station, Hotels, and guest houses looked well and many had rich landscaping. Of course you have your problems and some unoccupied buildings are now deteriorating and in need of attention. The town is distinctive for its stone houses, attractive arches, many of them now fulfilling a role different to what they were built for.

Landscaping:

Approach roads are good and some have welcoming landscaping. The roundabouts create a discipline for traffic, but you might consider landscaping some of them just to soften the hard effect. We notice only one part of the town, other than the park has undergone tree planting in recent years, down at the harbour area. Many towns are now embarking on tree planting in streets and designing schemes to calm traffic and at the same time give more colour to streetscapes. You should consider this suggestion in association with Kerry Co. Council: a treelined row of lime trees would be impressive on Green St., or on the Mall if width permits. The policy of one way streets is working and creates potential for tree planting. We liked the riverside garden of Captain's House which is superb. We are glad that the Town Park is undergoing improvement. The park is very very poorly signposted and not obvious to visitors. It is an important amenity for the town, especially in high tourist season and its convenience makes it an attraction worthy of improvement.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

More than most centres you have potential to gain valuable marks in this section. You are fortunate to have a local birdwatch group in the town and from whom you can seek advice. We liked the sculpture Crann na Tríonóide at the church yard in Green Street.

Litter Control:

This adjudicator derived immense pleasure in finding a town that was busy but litter free almost. This is praiseworthy as you had problems in this area down through the years. The only area showing litter was at the town river near the footbridge beside the Accommodation Centre. The recycling centre is effective, but some containers were full and awaiting collection. There was a little bit of abuse here also with dumping of black bags filled with litter. However, you have scored well in this section and raised your marks.

Tidiness:

Untidiness is coming from derelict buildings, unoccupied houses, neglected open spaces: e.g., opposite the livestock mart, and opposite Hillgrove. These are problems outside the scope of any tidy towns committee, but you should bring this report to the attention of the owners. The harbour, which traditionally has had problems is exceptional in presentation, with well kept car parks.

Residential Areas:

The view from the Connor Pass illustrated the great numbers of houses built in Dingle in recent years. The large housing estate at Cluain Coille is most disappointing in its approach. The grass here had not been cut by end of June and the two attractive oak trees at the entrance were neglected in presentation. This is an ideal location for a residents association. Perhaps you could organise a local garden competition to stimulate interest. The old houses at The Wood are very much a part of traditional Dingle. Many of these have been refurbished in poor taste, yielding to ultra modern materials not in keeping with the character of the area. As a committee you should encourage developers of housing estates to finish well with appropriate landscaping.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road structure is of a high standard and approach roads are well maintained. As mentioned earlier the town has undergone significant developments in many side and back areas. This has led to increased usage of former outhouses and creates many exciting outlets for the artist and artisan. Orchard Lane has some very attractive outlets, but the small pockets of landscaping are neglected: could these be maintained by the traders themselves?. The arch at Capall Dubh leading to accommodation units is a gem.

General Impression:

Dingle was busy, colourful and inviting on a sunny June day when this adjudicator traversed the many streets, side and back lanes, open yards, approach roads, and some buildings as part of the adjudication. You have done well in presenting the town to such a standard: there was a buzz about and the fabric of the town was accommodating. We urge you to tackle some of the black spots and pursue a phased plan with sustained effort. The town has potential to be a high scorer in the competition. Go nÉiri libh.