

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killarney**

Ref: **677**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **267**

Category: **F**

Date: **03/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	48	47
The Built Environment	40	35	35
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	26
Litter Control	40	33	31
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	33
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	267	263

Overall Developmental Approach:

What an excellent submission; not just one but two volumes. This entry encompasses a most comprehensive work programme and illustrates clearly an action committee with all year round activity. We commend you on your innovation of a CD for images and logos and your Killarney book of colours. Your attention to detail is impressive and your ability to key in your plans with practice is praiseworthy. Well, then again, as you remind us in your submission you have been dealing with people and their needs for 250 years now. Your success in various competitions in recent years augur well for your dedication and commitment. We applaud your success in Killarney Looking Good competition now running for 14 years, so you are well tried and tested in how to motivate the community. However, you have much demand on the physical structure of the town and the pressure of development and a growing population combine to tax your energies to a high degree. Your challenge is to cope with the developing changes .

The Built Environment:

The town has undergone immense changes in recent years and the huge number of new buildings in every area of the town poses new problems for an environmental movement like Tidy Towns. Happily your old buildings have not been neglected and we have numerous examples of great restoration work, many old buildings of 19th century vintage accommodating demands of the 21st century. And yet it is from small shops and old residential buildings that much of your character comes from, otherwise why would you proudly nominate J. O Leary for a shopfront award?. Public

buildings, too numerous to list in total were well presented and continue to maintain your high markings. New buildings in good taste are equally complimented. Dunnes Stores in High Street is a most impressive building and well presented. The plethora of hotels, many with exquisite gardens are a legendary feature of Killarney and serve the commercial life of the town well.

Landscaping:

There is hardly an area in town that is not benefitting from attractive landscaping. Your consistency in presenting a rich display of roses at various roundabouts is most commendable and we acknowledge the high maintenance demand under this section. Approach roads are a treat with a great array of mature and new planting. Your treatment of Port Road in erecting information plaques is excellent. This riverside area is unique and serves the walking fraternity well. The tree planting at Mission road is further enhancing and the combination of stone walls, tree planting and grassed verges is a feature of Killarney. Well done on involving the students in litter control and clean ups. Despite the busy usage, the car park beside the Tourist Office is well presented. Don't be shy about more tree planting in car parks generally as they soften the coldness of large bleak areas. Traffic is as ever, demanding on your streetscape but it has improved in terms of discipline. Your traffic system is good and signage is well placed and seems to be working well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have scored well in this section again this year. We commend the work on the Deenagh River Walk and good to note it is wheelchair accessible. You have great opportunity to highlight the wildlife of the area and being able to promote a walk that offers deer sightings is unique, apart from the Phoenix Park perhaps. The information plaques already alluded to on Port road now need cleaning. Of course the presence of a National Park within urban boundaries makes you special. We like the practice of involving the school children in providing bat and bird boxes with their names on them. Well done on this section.

Litter Control:

Litter problems: never far away in our thoughts. The principal streets are impressively litter free and we commend the organised control of litter. A small amount of litter was evident at the entrance to Chapel Lane, under the arch where litter containers are kept. In general litter control is good and you have maintained your mark here.

Tidiness:

Your problems here relate to a few derelict and unoccupied buildings in and around the principal streets. Also some open space are poorly presented. The fenced in area beside the Killarney Carpet and Furniture Centre is unsightly and the concrete post and rail fencing is out of character with the town's excellence. There is a lovely traditional building beside Impulse in High Street awaiting appropriate development. The great amount of fresh painting throughout the town adds to tidiness and this is praiseworthy. Painting was in evidence at the Citizens Information building on adjudication day, so we look forward to an appropriate name sign.

Residential Areas:

We could sum up this category by saying excellent. All estates visited were a treat to view and many have superb gardens and high colour. Also estates are well signposted with good signage, making it easy for adjudication comment. We are aware of the track record of Killarney Looking Good in this category in particular and the results of your efforts are now manifesting admirably.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

One particular character of Killarney that has unfolded in recent years is the development of small,

narrow side lanes. These have now been brought into the core commercial life of the town and are contributing significantly. Those at Flemings Lane, Barry Lane, Chapel Lane and Post Office Lane were admired. We notice Flemings Lane is awaiting lettings and we hope the shop names will be appropriate in design and quality to those in the principal streets. Well done to the local authorities for a high standard of streetscape and road maintenance, coupled with good freshly painted markings. We also note your intention for more sculpture and we support this programme. Some towns have gone a little overboard with such developments, so we ask that you proceed slowly.

General Impression:

This is another fine performance by Ireland's busiest tourist town. You have maintained your high standard and your outlined intentions for further progress is to your credit. Your challenge now is to keep the community with you in your endeavours, liaise closely with all the contributing agencies and tackle the odd black spot. Good luck for 2005.

Second Round Adjudication:

Killarney looked exceptionally well at the time of second adjudication. Litter control was best at the outer limits of the town where practically no litter was noted however it was much weaker in the town centre, not to the point of being a serious problem however it is something that we need to continue monitoring as no doubt is the case. It was surprising to note stretches of weed choked kerbs to the footpath leading out to Muckross particularly just before the first entrance to Muckross and indeed the small carpark opposite was surprisingly weedy. Landscaping in Killarney town and environs is stunning and a successful mix of permanent plants together with plants for seasonal interest and colourful flower displays appears to have been achieved; the latter flower displays were stunning in their visual impact. The quality of the built environment is excellent particularly in public buildings. Many shop fronts have been photographed and are being considered for the shop front award. Street furniture is being nicely presented also and the identification signs for roads lanes and roundabouts complete the picture. Killarney town has much to offer in terms of amenities and these are sufficiently well highlighted for the benefit of all. Well done on your environment/friendly approach for your waste collection system and on your excellent Killarney Town Trail publication. There are far too many diverse bed and breakfast signs lining your approach roads each competing with the next, this destroys the beauty of the entrances to the town and some consideration should be given to achieving a consistency in presentation.