

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sneem**

Ref: **254**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **261**

Category: **B**

Date: **04/08/0204**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	42
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	27
Litter Control	40	36	36
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	34
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>258</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for a most comprehensive and detailed submission with highly illustrated map and details of work on hand. Your submission surrounding agenda 21 is superb and the first encountered by this adjudicator. Your ability to create your developments relevant to the plan is commendable and in some cases marks a new direction for Tidy Towns. Since your great victory in 1987 you have sustained your efforts and made significant advances. The great work of FÁS is acknowledged and a full team seemed to be in action on adjudication day. A word of caution here: the extent of your reliance on FÁS may be excessive and many centres have been cut back with allocations. Remember the original concept of Tidy Towns relies heavily on community effort, so you need to be careful if involving full community endeavour. You have a large area to attend relative to your population numbers and your success with landscape projects is praiseworthy. Some of previous years work is going a little tatty and will need improved maintenance. Your challenge now is to stick to your plan and attend to detail. For instance fresh painting was very much in evidence, while at the same time signposting needs cleaning throughout.

### The Built Environment:

Public buildings were well presented and both churches are attractive and in keeping with the environs of Sneem. The bellfry on the RC church may soon need cleaning. You should seek advice on such treatment of this stone. The school was well presented with high class landscaping. Throughout the village, public houses and commercial outlets are bright and enticing, apart from a couple.

Husseys in South Square has gone shabby. The Texaco petrol station is poorly presented and the rusty corrugated roof of the building behind it is unsightly. The Garda Station is neat and tidy and well presented. Would Dan Galvin consider toning down his sign, it is out of keeping with the traditional features of the town. Good luck with the Enterprise Centre, although you need to improve the environs and don't be tempted to overdo the signage. The IRD offices are well presented within. Good luck with your plans also for development of the community hall. Ensure the design blends in well with the rural surrounds of the area.

### **Landscaping:**

This is your strong point and the FÁS schemes have served you well with some major environmental developments. The Garden of the Senses is superb and the associated rose garden, butterfly garden and bird village augment. This adjudicator walked all of this area from the church and derived great benefit from such beauty. This is now an attractive circular route of interest to locals and visitors alike. Well done on the composting also. The campsite is well presented but the sign at the entrance should be upgraded. The plethora of hanging baskets, window boxes and rich shrubbery, coupled with freshly painted premises and an abundance of natural wildflowers all combine to give Sneem a great air of colour. The green at the South Square was well presented with good grass control. The Steve Casey monument is attractive and indeed evocative.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

More than most centres you have great potential to promote an appreciation of wildlife in and around the town. Your work at the garden of the senses is acknowledged and the information plaques, nesting boxes, wildflower area and of course many natural habitats all contribute to the high mark you achieved in this category. In short you have combined the natural with creative development and we say well done. The rock formation at the river bridge is dramatic with attractive overhanging trees: e.g., sycamore, maple, ash and the ubiquitous fuchsia.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter is under control and people seem receptive to the provision of litter bins. This seems to be respected by the many visitors you get and almost all areas were free of litter on adjudication day. In general the litter situation has improved in all centres but one expects high standards in award winning centres, so well done.

### **Tidiness:**

You have problems in this category and you have slipped in standard. At the entrance to Coomanassig View unsightly rubble was dumped. One great disappointment was the condition of the area behind the green gates at the toilet block. This was most unexpected and is your biggest single letdown. Some unused cars need to be removed at Bellview as they are unsightly. The termination at the pier road is disappointing and should be more defined: also the picnic table here is in need of repair. Surprisingly all picnic tables seem to be in the village centre: could some be erected on the approached roads?

### **Residential Areas:**

Some boundary walls at Coomanassig View need painting, including the wall outside the Fire Station. Almost all houses were presented to a high standard and some have excellent gardens. Two houses in particular down from the Enterprise Centre have superb gardens. It is good to witness so many premises in the town centre maintaining residential usage and some also offering accommodation. There is a beautiful terrace of houses beside the Texaco Stn. All housing estates should be well defined with appropriate bilingual signage.

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

Approach roads are, without exception, well presented. The Killarney approach was full of colour on a fine June day. The approach from the GAA field was well trimmed and has some attractive environmental features. As mentioned earlier many signs are in need of improvement: you should do a survey of requirements. Back and side areas now form an integral part of the competition and need to be presented to a high standard. This is of particular importance to areas like Sneem with high visitor numbers. Many side entrances have distinctive features worthy of highlighting.

## **General Impression:**

A pure delight to visit Sneem once again. You have performed well and seem to have the backing of the community. We commend the direction being taken by the committee with Agenda 21 and your policy in this respect is acknowledged. Well done on an other excellent performance and good luck for 2005.

## **Second Round Adjudication:**

Sneem was a pleasure to adjudicate for second adjudication and the village looked magnificent on a bright summers day. Given your throughput of visitors and touring buses, this adjudicator is continuously impressed by your excellent standard of presentation under the most difficult of circumstances. Your Geopark initiative is most interesting and the concept of ecologically friendly tourism is both interesting and one that will ultimately have to be adopted at all our great beauty spots, this adjudicator wishes you well in this undertaking. The village is being considered for the Inclusive Access Award, the Landscape Award, the Wildlife and the Heritage awards. The large service pole located beside the Enterprise Centre is unsightly against the scenic background as indeed are a number of others. You are aware of offending signs in the village, hopefully you will meet with some success in relation to these eventually. Litter control was excellent, two or three beer cans were noted on the verge beside the Hostel however this appears to be an isolated incident and no marks were lost in this regard. No doubt the mound of rubble at Coolmanassig View is related to the building site behind and will be removed at the completion of work. Some work seems to have been achieved for the picnic table at the end of the pier road however by the time of the second adjudication this work had not yet

been completed. The Texaco petrol station looked well having been recently painted black and red and its curtilage area was tidy, well done! Some boundary walls in the small residential development near Coolmanassig are in need of attention. Thank you for a fine presentation. We look forward to our next visit.