

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Dingle**

Ref: **552**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **231**

Category: **C**

Date: **17/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	41
The Built Environment	40	36	36
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	19
Litter Control	40	29	30
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>229</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The three-year work plan and map submitted with the application form were very helpful to gain a understanding of the aims and objectives of the committee. The list of items included is both comprehensive and imaginative. Many of the items on this list have either been started or have been completed. The continued lobbying to get public authority works done is a good idea. Removal of poles and placing cables underground is very positive. The map also shows the multitude of streets and back lanes that all form part of this unique town.

### The Built Environment:

There is a huge range of building types and styles. Painting and decoration is an essential component of the upkeep of these. The standards of shop premises décor has improved over the years and this standard must be upheld. Where some shops need attention to paint it becomes very noticeable quickly compared to the high standards of their surrounds. The many stonewalls along the approach roads look very well and this theme has been well adapted within the town in places. The Tourist Office building is a fine asset. An Doirin apartment building looks very well and the gates and walls give it a quality appearance. The Library and Phoenix cinema also look well. The old Court House needs some attention to the railing paintings. The Church and adjoining Disearth Institute of Celtic Culture is a fine building and takes great prominence. The maze of tiny streets and laneways through the town make interesting strolling and gives great character to the town. As more back ways become opened up greater need to present facades of buildings that were not seen

before occurs. The “Dingle framer” premises is especially noteworthy with the impressive stonewall and gate frontage. The Dick Mack’s yard area needs some upgrading with the general décor and organisation. The pier and fishing areas along the front of the town are busy places and account is taken of the fact that is a fishing port.

### **Landscaping:**

The town park is disappointing. Some planting of shrubs has taken place along the walls but the central area and general upkeep is not the best. There is a need for an imaginative design and a programme of maintenance for this park. The captain’s garden is a beautiful sight and makes great use of the river. The large containers such as at Strand Street by the entrance to the Colony offer good potential – some of these have not been planted up - at the Court House and by Supervalu. Container plantings add a good sparkle of colour to the town. The Sycamore trees along by the Pier front area hopefully will succeed – they seem to be under stress from wind and sea spray. Good landscaping was noted at the Dingle Marina Cottages, by the entrance to the Craft Village and at Radharc na Mara. These contribute well to the overall appearance of the roadside at this point. Individual gardens of houses throughout the town and surrounds contribute well to the overall landscape of the town and credit is due to their owners for this. The range of plants that are successful is limited except in summer when summer containers can be filled with seasonal plants. The most successful plants are Fuchsia, Hebes, Escallonia, New Zealand flax, Montbretia and Olearia – all of which do well in this locality. The lovely graveyard at the old convent with the large copper beech tree and the lily-surrounded railing is a lovely memorial to the sisters who have passed on.

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

There is great potential for development of a nature appreciation programme in Dingle. The coastline and surrounding countryside has so much to offer. Often people do not know where to look for interesting wildlife and some projects should be developed in this regard. Sign Boards give helpful information.

### **Litter Control:**

There is a good level of litter control in practice generally. The town park is a black spot in this regard with much litter dumped there giving a very unwelcoming entrance. Continued emphasis on the need for litter freedom through campaigns and working with schools and community groups is needed to keep litter at bay. Litter was strewn by the picnic tables near the recycle bins.

### **Tidiness:**

The lamps along the main front areas are very attractive and having the cables underground for these creates a tidy space. The continued work of placing cables underground should continue. The orchard lane area is a little neglected – the weedy kerbs and absence of proper planting in the green spaces in this carpark could be improved. Mick Macks yard is also a little untidy with some paving needed

The timber paneling beside the Ice Plant needs some attention. The road front wall at O’Cathains Iasc needs some repairs.

### **Residential Areas:**

There is a huge amount of accommodation houses tucked into various places all through and beside the town. The holiday homes look very well and appear to be maintained well from year to year. Residential house gardens contribute well to the appearance of the entire town by their good upkeep. It is good to see so many streetside residences. These keep a real life within the town. The houses along Grays Lane I and River lane look really colourful and well cared for.

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

The complex of streets through the town - while interesting in itself, is not ideal for both pedestrians and motorists together. Some more one-way streets and pedestrianised areas would be ideal so that people could roam the street without fear of traffic in the narrow streets. The approach roads are of good quality and the roundabouts are helpful in organising the traffic flow. The road along by the aquarium is very rough and needs resurfacing. The many little back lanes are well tended. Stonewalls along the main roads towards the seaward side of the town give an attractive appearance.

## **General Impression:**

Dingle is a most interesting place to visit with many facets displayed all within a very compact area. The town is both colourful and cheerful and it is no wonder that so many tourists flock to this town. Continued painting and general upkeep of premises is key to the success of Dingle. Indeed many of the points on the work plan include the work "paint".

## **Second Round Adjudication:**

Brian de Staic jewellers is a bold modern building on the seafront. It was disappointing to note that the Craft Village appears to be reduced in occupants. Pavements appear to be a little rough in some locations. New trees have been planted at the entrance to the village on the Killorglin road and these are coming along nicely. The railings to the stairs of the old courthouse at the entrance to the village appeared quite rusty. Hanging baskets and window boxes made cheerful and colourful displays along the main streets of Dingle. Buildings were generally well presented. A mural on Bridge Street should be freshly painted up before next year's competition. The funfair at the entrance to the quayside and seafront area looks quite unfortunate. Road surfaces were in bad condition. An Garrai is a laneway which has some attractive houses to its top end. A messy site beside Murphy's Pub on the Quays created a bad impression. Grey's Lane, despite the name, was extremely colourful in terms of its houses! The frescoes at the grotto were quite beautiful and unusual. The adjudicator was disappointed to note that the Town Park had not improved since First Adjudication – there was a lot of litter apparent- indeed there was a very light scattering throughout the town. A visitor to the town would barely be aware of the park's existence. There is a large bring centre which was maintained to a reasonable standard on the day. The busy town of Dingle is an extraordinary village which, despite its high visitor numbers, still retains much of its unique character.