

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killarney**

Ref: **697**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **270**

Category: **F**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	48	48
The Built Environment	40	36	35
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	26
Litter Control	40	34	33
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	27	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	34
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	270	267

Overall Developmental Approach:

The most comprehensive information submitted with the entry form gives an in depth understanding of progress and developments at Killarney and the seriousness and commitment to strive for perfection that prevails in the town. The many new projects are commendable as is the emphasis on keeping existing completed projects in top condition. The commercial development in Killarney is now very sizable. The development of the Killarney Urban Masterplan commissioned will indeed focus activities clearly and is very important so that a cohesive and integrated approach can be adopted. The "Killarney Looking Good Competition" serves its function very well. An emphasis on design aspects and concentration on back lane areas and the appearances of the backs of buildings that have become revealed is well worthwhile. Traffic, parking and scope for pedestrianisation should be prominent of the planning for the future process.

The Built Environment:

The landmark buildings continue to form the core of the town. The Cathedral, (work on spire noted) St. Mary's Church of Ireland, the Methodist Church, Monastery and educational buildings are stalwart buildings of the town. The many hotels and guesthouses are very well presented and great efforts are made with these now with even more competition than before. The shops and business premises through the town look extremely well with few exceptions and visitors are noticeably admiring the streetscape and confirming this with their cameras. The Old Town Hall building looks very well with

the five trees planted to the forefront. The lanes – Fleming's, Tuohills (with the beautiful array of hanging baskets) Barrys, Hilliard's and New and Old Markets lanes give a very interesting aspect to the town and the more upgrading of shops and restaurants that occurs in these areas the better. One great benefit from such areas is the freedom of traffic – which prompts the thought – how much better it would be if traffic was banned from the town centre area. There are so many new building developments as in many other towns at present in Ireland. The Court Yard New buildings apartments look well. The old Kerry Mineral Bottling Company buildings is looking forelone and hopefully some rejuvenation will follow here.

Landscaping:

The landscape of Killarney is characterized by the rich mantle of green provided by the immense number of trees, shrubs, ferns and grassed areas. Fortunately these fringe the town and make Killarney what it is. The utilisation of this landscape with new landscape developments has been pursued very successfully with the huge amount of tree planting, well kept borders and container plantings within the town. The large trees at St. Mary's Church and by the old Monastery area are lovely and are a good example of the value of mature trees within a town. The rose displays at the traffic islands by the library and the roundabout planted around the town are attractive. Containerised colourful plants find their most appropriate place within the streets and not causing awkwardness beside the more natural green areas. The unique little gardens – fern/heather and rock gardens on the Mission Road look very well. This is a lovely road offering a very green and relaxing strolling ground.. The landscape presentations of hotels and guesthouses is exciting and the grounds by the Killarney Park Hotel, Killarney Avenue Hotel,, Station Road and Great Southern Hotel bring landscape to the town centre.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Killarney National Park is marvelous renowned park where the observation of wildlife of many types is available to all. The Deenagh River walk forms a beautiful strolling ground and is so convenient from the town and accessible to wheelchairs. The work of the Killarney Nature Conservancy Group in bringing wildlife appreciation to the young and old is commendable. The work of the Killarney National Park Education Centre at Knockreer House is very helpful and the involvement with school children is particularly important in passing appreciation of the natural environment from generation to generation. The information about valuable work of the Kerry Deer Society was also noted in the submission.

Litter Control:

All the expansion of Killarney – both commercial and tourist – leads to a need for even greeter waste and litter management plans. There is a very good appearance through the streets of a clean environment and the litter system appears to be working well. The spring clean campaign is an excellent idea and the involvement of Killarney Jarveys collecting rubbish from the lakeshore is good. The more people that contribute to these schemes the less likely they are to tolerate littering of any sort. The achievement of nine schools with the Green flag is laudable. The signs indicating that composted material has been used for the flower borders in the town is a very positive message

Tidiness:

The number of buildings needing attention has reduced considerably over the years and a mere handful is left at this stage. The burnt out car at the Muckcross Gardens entrance carpark hopefully will be removed quickly. The high standards of painted and upgraded shop fronts gives a very tidy appearance to the town

Residential Areas:

The vast number of residential accommodation offers individuals an opportunity to make their

contribution to the appearance of the town. The response is very good with many people taking great care of their gardens and road frontage areas thereby giving a good impression. The entrance and green spaces within housing estates frequently offers good opportunity for tree planting. Where such opportunity exists it is wise to plant a small number of strategic trees – of the large longer living types – oak, beech, lime, chestnut. These will in time lend great character to the estate rather than a large number of turban trees more suited to street side plantings.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All roads surrounding the town are in good condition and the roadsides appear very attractive with the rich green foil. Carparks along the roads are well cared for. Approach roads are well landscaped and grass care along verges is to a high a standard. The Mission Road is particularly beautiful. Remarks above have been made about back lanes within the town.

General Impression:

Killarney continues to attract so many people on account of the vast amenity area present. The accessibility to the National Park from the town, the beautifully presented streets and the high quality restaurants, hotels and guesthouses make Killarney a very special place. The work of the various groups and committees in keeping developments on track and consistent with the natural surrounds are to be commended.

Second Round Adjudication:

Your plans for the future development of Killarney made very interesting reading – in particular your study by Murray O Laoire Architects and the proposals for the jarveys waiting and lavatory area. Empty poles – presumably intended for signage - at the Brehon Hotel looked unfortunate and should be removed. The railings to the bridge on the Muckcross Road should be repainted before next year's competition. The Kerry Mineral Water Supply Company building on the same road was not in the best of condition. The marvellous floral displays on roundabouts and at junctions were greatly admired – particularly that on the Castleisland approach. There is a high standard in terms of residential areas, with great contributions being made by the many B&Bs on approach roads and in the town centre. The brick and stone cottage on diagonally opposite the John Paul II Pastoral Centre were admired, as were Monastery Cottages. An unfortunate building on the far end of New Road looked to be in a bad state of repair. The fact that the town has Killarney National Park literally "on the doorstep" is a marvellous asset for resident and visitor alike. The planting and circular slate sculpture at the rock garden at Mission Road was greatly admired. The standard of litter control on the day was reasonably good although the odd paper was spotted.