

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knightstown**

Ref: **242**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **254**

Category: **A**

Date: **17/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	42
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	36	36
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	34
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>253</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Great credit is indeed due to the committee for the marvellous work over the years that has brought this village to such a high level in the competition. The many improvements are well documented and evident to see on a visit to this beautiful village. Continued effort is always needed to maintain what has been achieved, develop new projects and cope with changing circumstances. There are still a number places where attention is needed and a plan that will focus on these will be well worthwhile.

### The Built Environment:

The Clock tower restoration is symbolic of the community spirit in Knightstown. The business premises continue to look well. The hotel is becoming a little tired looking and some attention to décor would be welcome soon. The Dwelling House Coffee house is spectacular. The lifeboat house looks very well. There is a considerable amount of new building work in progress – The Reenellen and Knights Haven projects are sizable and will bring many more people to the village. A close eye must be kept on these so that their surrounds are carefully reinstated when the building work is completed. The areas around the Reenellen project offer interesting possibilities and hopefully an imaginative design is planned for the finished product. Well painted house and business premises are important in giving the village a crisp look. The slate and stone walls are a lovely feature of the village. The removal of overhead cables is a marvellous achievement and great credit is due for the persistence that resulted in this project. The old rusty corrugated building by the entrance to An

Oige looks as if it has seen better times as do similar buildings in the background of the village. The Dive Centre needs attention.

### **Landscaping:**

The sensory garden developed over the last year is a most interesting project and nicely set within the church grounds. – It is marvelous that the young men from Tig An Oilean are so involved in the care of this garden. The garden looks well. A number of the Yew hedging plants are suffering drought. Care is needed with all the planting in this garden as regards watering – many of the plants are overshadowed by trees and competing with roots of large trees. Watering is needed until they are well established. The tile water feature is interesting and very colourful. Perhaps some seating could be added at this point – giving time to reflect. The promenade is very well maintained and gives a lovely appearance as it meets the waterfront. Colourful containers add a lovely sparkle to the village. The area around the Altazamuth Stone is tastefully completed. Many gardens have contributed well to the village landscape by the care and attention they give to their own premises, gardens and road frontage. The An Oige grounds are a little neglected. The containers placed along the wall filled with bedding add a nice touch of colour along the road.

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

The coastline offers great potential for wildlife observation and some signboards conveying the range of seabirds are a good idea. The wildlife walk by the side of the church around to Jane street adds further to the wealth of wild life and when the trees have made some progress this will be even better.

### **Litter Control:**

There is a very good level of litter control in the village and the Recycle bins , prominently placed make people aware of the need to reduce their waste. Congratulations to the people of Tig an Oilean for their achievement of the Green Flag

### **Tidiness:**

Knightstown is a very tidy village. The tidiness around the pier and the lack of overhead cables helps greatly in this regard. The few gardens that need attention to their front areas and those that need painting could further help the tidiness of the village. The disruption caused by the building in progress is only temporary and will be resolved in time. The corrugated roofed sheds in the background are not attractive. When new building projects open up back areas often backs of buildings become exposed – these are not always the most attractive and need a solution

### **Residential Areas:**

The new housing schemes are tastefully positioned and when the area surrounding them is reinstated they should blend into the village very well. Peter and Jane streets look well . The terraces of houses are well cared for. The village housing is well looked after and good credit is due to all you contribute well by maintaining their houses with paint and general décor.

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

The promenade road is beautiful and gives uninterrupted viewing of the sea. The parking inlets are ideally placed and well cared for. The Portmagee road and road to the slate quarry has a lovely combination of Fuchsia and Montbretias- so characteristic of the area. As stated last year the road surfaces on the roads within the village could be improved – back lanes and Peter Street.

## **General Impression:**

Knightstown is a beautiful and interesting village to visit. The care and maintenance is obvious and with so much progress to date the expectation is that it will even get better. Incorporating the old with the new and the dealing with old buildings in the background are two important goals to set.

## **Second Round Adjudication:**

The displays of montbretia in the hedgerows on the approach from Chapelstown never fail to inspire, but may not have yet come to full bloom on adjudication day. The fuchsia was also admired. There are a number of new housing developments in the village and it is important that these are closely monitored to ensure that these are designed in a style and finished in terms of materials and landscaping in a manner that is suitable to Knightstown. The adjudicator was pleased to note the use of slate which is so significant to Valentia. Altazamuth House B&B was very fresh in appearance as was the Coffee Shop. The retention of timber sash windows is highly commendable. The Royal Bar was looking a little neglected in its prominent location at the bottom of the street at the Quay. The new lettering along the coping of the wall was admired, however. The Marks and Spencer container sitting in an empty site at the quayside adjacent to the Royal Pier Hotel looked unfortunate. The two churches and grounds looked as well as ever. The grounds of the Altazamuth Walk are maturing well over the last number of years. The Bring Centre area was well maintained.