

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sneem**

Ref: **626**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **264**

Category: **B**

Date: **18/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	44	44
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	36	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	35	34
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	300	264	261

Overall Developmental Approach:

The detailed information supplied with the entry form was most helpful in gaining an understanding of all the activities of the committee and the associated work in Sneem. Great strides have been made over the years and it is marvellous to see a village successfully go from strength to strength. The references to Agenda 21 are indeed relevant and it is good that this is taken so seriously. The garden of the senses submission makes very interesting reading and to see the fruits of this transformed on to the landscape is a great result in itself. The committee of 14 is a sizable group and this shows great community spirit. The cooperation with local people and with public authorities has achieved so much. The plan submitted for 2005-2008 clearly outlines the objectives under each of the Tidy Towns assessment headings and as such should prove to be very rewarding. The prospect of the bridge being opened right through for pedestrian is great news and a cause of a long awaited celebration when it occurs.

The Built Environment:

The buildings on the two squares look extremely well with a very high standard of paint and general maintenance. Sneem has indeed come to be known for the fresh and crisp paintwork of the buildings and this continues this year. The Catholic Church looks very well and the surrounds set this off so well. The old Church of Ireland is nicely ticked in among the trees and appears attractive. The e Garda station in its striking blue and yellow colours is very fresh. Many roadside stonewalls give an

attractive appearance to the village- not least the wall surrounding the island on entry to the village from the Caherdaniel side, the approach to the Catholic church and the roadside by the garden of the Senses. All the beauty of the stonework culminates in the stone sculptures by the sculpture/ stone garden. The function of the railings surrounding the green as mentioned before is questionable – it gives a message of “keep Out” as compared to the other green where gaps in the low wall and a path and seats are welcoming. Consider the benefits and disadvantages of removing the posts and rails once more. The memorials and sculpture features along the two greens give great interest. These are set off well by the provision of stones by their bases. The cleaning of the stonework at the church was noted

Landscaping:

The landscaping at the Garden of the Senses is a lovely feature and has developed well over the few years it is there. There is a lovely combination of garden features in this garden. The maze will make an interesting feature as it develops. The attraction of wildlife to this is interesting and the accessibility is appreciated. Many well-filled planters through the village give a lovely sparkle of colour through the summer. Hanging baskets and window boxes when well filled can always be relied upon to give the centre of a town or village an uplift. The attractive plantings on both greens combine both summer colour with all year round features. The island border on approach to the village from the Caherdaniel side looks very well and is well cared for. Many gardens are treated well and these also play their part in making Sneem look so well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildlife area makes interesting strolling. The concrete paths seem a little harsh for the natural environment but they are very practical. In time when the whitewash tones done more they will form a union with their surrounds. The planting will help encourage wild life. The encouragement of people to observe, appreciate and seek out the information themselves is vital and is something which needs to be passed from one generation to the next as an important legacy. Projects like the wild life garden contribute well in this respect.

Litter Control:

A very good level of litter control is evident all through the village. The vigilance and the dedication of all responsible for litter management deserve praise. There will always be some litter from passing traffic, wind borne or by accidental deposits. Perseverance and determination will keep the village clean. The recycle bins (bilingual noted) are serving well and being used, the area is clean and tidy and not causing any uncleanness.

Tidiness:

The many residences are well cared for and show a great community spirit in the village. Some clutter of signage is noted at the top of the road leading to Garden of the Senses. At this point there is a huge amount of signs, of all types together with the ESB pole as a central figure. Undergrounding of cables will make a huge difference. Shop materials and signs on the footpaths sometimes are a little overbearing – while all efforts are made in some areas for people with disabilities it seems a shame to place objects in the way on footpaths. Some building work in the village is causing a little disruption at present this will no doubt be sorted soon, The area to the side of McCarthy's premise on the Kenmare side it seems could be improved and the hostel chalets - now closed appear somewhat neglected.

Residential Areas:

Very good residential houses were noted with great care and attention to décor and road frontages. There are a few houses in Seaview estate where roadside walls need attention otherwise this estate is well cared for and a credit to the residents.. Individual houses on the approach roads appear very

well. It is great to see so many residential houses on the squares giving a great spirit to the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road approaches look very well. The well-tended verges and the Rhododendron hedges appear very well. The wall construction by the roadsides gives a lovely character to the village. The tarmac surface at the south square is very clean and crisp. The new signage in various locations looks well – bearing in mind the remark above about overall signs being overcrowded in places.

General Impression:

The many projects and attention to detail has earned great reward for Sneem over the years. The number of visitors present bears witness to the achievements to date. Continued work is always in progress and innovation, the continued dedication and determination will bring greater success to Sneem

Second Round Adjudication:

Advertising hoardings on approach roads should be actively discouraged. Traffic congestion has been a problem in the village for quite some time due to the large visitor numbers to Sneem but hopefully the opening of the new pedestrian bridge will somewhat alleviate problems in this regard. The grassy banks and looked well and the rhododendrons must look quite spectacular when in full bloom. Road surfaces could be improved upon so perhaps approach Kerry County Council in this regard. Directional signage in the village center was a little grubby. The school, Garda Station and churches were well presented and the colourful buildings make a strong impact at a distance when set against the spectacular backdrop of the surrounding scenery. The North and South Squares were as well presented as always. Don't neglect tin roofs when considering overall presentation – rusty ones created a bad impression and so should be repainted in traditional red or green colours.