

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killarney** Ref: **340**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **293**
Category: **F** Date(s): **19/07/2006**
10/08/2006

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	48
The Built Environment	50	37
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	293

Overall Development Approach:

Killarney is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included support documentation and in particular thank you for your copy of the Killarney Urban Master Plan which is based on an integrated approach to urban design, development and management. We wish you well in its implementation and acknowledge what has been achieved for your presentation this year in line with your development approach for Killarney. We complement the Killarney Tidy Towns group for their aims for 2006 and the way their goals have been achieved. Killarney town has performed very well in this year's competition and it has been a pleasure to chart your progress over the number of years.

The Built Environment:

It was a pleasure to note the excellent presentation of civic, public and private buildings that make up the built environment of Killarney. We look forward to the rehabilitation of the building owned by the OPW which has been earmarked by government decentralisation (New Road). A number of new developments were admired which included the new Cineplex and the fire station and we look forward to the development of the new public toilet plaza in the town centre. Shop fronts are nicely presented and the number of garish signs has reduced steadily over the years, however it is worth mentioning those that still persist namely the plastic neon on the Aras Phadraig premises together with the sign for Castle Lodge Guest House and Slieve Bloom Manor. The John Paul II Pastoral Centre was beautifully presented however one of its boundary walls was in need of rehabilitation to the plasterwork. Stone buildings were admired also and the green of the gutters and pipes on the Methodist Church was a pleasing visual contrast to the grey of its stone. The school on the New Road is a handsome development also. Both Christys Irish Stores and the Medical Hall were two shop fronts which were especially admired. The Credit Union premises is a fine building but its signage has unfortunately been spoiled by missing letters. We appreciate that this is a problem within the town in general but would urge the Credit Union to replace the letters as their absence is spoiling an attractive overall presentation and

enhancement to the streetscape.

Landscaping:

Many of your roundabouts are beautifully landscaped and form an excellent introduction to the core of Killarney, the Ballydowney roundabout with its balance of hard and soft landscaping e.g. boulders and shrubs was particularly admired. The Cleeney roundabout with its fish sculpture and attractive landscaping is a reminder of the wonderful wildlife amenity status of Killarney town. Landscaping at East Avenue was admired including the nearby entrance to the Killarney Park Hotel, colourful flowers in full bloom together with green spaces are a feature of many parts of the town centre in Killarney which give the town a colourful and well cared for appearance. Perhaps the excess growth could be removed from the boles of mature trees along New Road in order to highlight their shape more definitely. A number of planters with dead plants were noted on the N72 in advance of the nameplate. The Doctor Hands Liebherr Road is beautifully landscaped and continues to be maintained to the highest standard.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Dina River walk, woodland area, park and childrens playground is as fine an amenity as any urban community might hope to have and was being thoroughly enjoyed at the time of our visit. The wildlife panels on the footpath outside of the boundary wall of the river walk are attractive features in and of themselves and also serve to heighten awareness and appreciation of the wildlife of Dina River walk and woodland area. The low stone wall here with its integrated flowerbeds are a nice touch also. Well done on the expansion of your wildlife viewing points developed in association with the Heritage Service of the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government. We wish you well on the expansion of the artistic feature at the Cleeney roundabout in the form of a water feature to represent the various type of fish to be found in your lakes.

Litter Control:

Litter control was to a high standard overall throughout the town on both inspection times of first adjudication. The town centre was quite litter free in terms of large pieces of litter with only some scraps in evidence, one of these locations being Kenmare Place at the AIB premises and litter along the New Road. Litter bins both in the car park and outside of the car park at the Tourist Office were full to capacity and surprisingly there had been no overspill onto the street but this is something that will have to be monitored carefully. A verge on the further reaches of the N72 had signs of litter and takeaway litter was noted on the verges of the N72. Given the size of Killarney town, together with the high numbers of visitors at the height of the season, this adjudicator considers litter control to be quite high and to European standards in Killarney.

Waste Minimisation:

Bring banks were noted at a number of locations around the town and most were neatly presented with no boxes or bags in attendance. The timber enclosed recycling point in the Beech Road car park was particularly attractive. Well done to the pupils of The Holy Cross National School for their Green Flag status and their commitment to environmental practices such as their wormery, composting and the development of a garden from the money raised from recycling cans. Another fruitful initiative would be to work with various sectors of the community to identify the amount and type of waste generated by each sector with a view to minimising this waste, in addition to collecting for recycling. Well done on the Killarney Composting and Recycling Scheme which allows each household to recycle up to seven different materials and to compost all organic waste. The diversion of 42% of all household waste from landfill is a significant achievement.

Tidiness:

A significant amount of weed growth along the kerb to the footpath on the Kenmare approach road and entrance to Killarney was noted, a less significant incidence was a feature of the main street in the town centre. Two skips were noted in the Beech Road car park which were surrounded by some overspill and which looked quite untidy. Hopefully the Kerry Mineral Water Supply Co. is to be redeveloped soon as it looks quite shabby and has a detrimental impact on its streetscape. Lanes and side areas within the town centre are to a high standard. The poster free aspect of the town was noted, well done.

Residential Areas:

Roadside boundary walls to a number of dwellings along Lewis Road were in need of attention however dwellings were admired for the quality of their painting and overall presentation. The terrace of stone dwellings with their red brick window trim along the John Paul Road together with their stone boundary walls were especially admired as were the charming dwellings located across from the River Park. On street dwellings in the town centre are presented to a high standard in most instances. The large number of signs for guest houses and B&Bs on entrances to Killarney town from approach roads is an unattractive feature particularly with signs vying for attention and some of these being outsized and inappropriate. As in previous years many gardens were admired for their colour and permanent planting and boundary treatment.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Kilorglin approach Road (N72) with its stands of mature trees and its nicely surfaced road surface and footpath is a good introduction to Killarney town; this standard has been achieved in respect to all of the major approach roads to Killarney. Might the metal rails to the bridge over the river be painted a bright colour, as they look unfinished with their present grey colour. The wide grass verge which forms a buffer between the pedestrian path and the roadway on the Kenmare Road provides a safe and clean environment for walkers. Your Gold Medal panels on approach roads and entrances stood tall and proud. Well done on the wirescape free aspect of the town centre along the main street and also the parallel route for wires along Port Road. Car parks are well presented, well surfaced and lined and sign posting is plentiful and appropriate.

General Impression:

Killarney is a most attractive town with a handsome built environment and wonderful natural amenities. The town sits well into its hinterland of mountain, lake and woodland areas which it complements beautifully.

Second Round Adjudication:

Your submission is a classic with a comprehensive illustration of all your work and your close association with the various interested bodies. We acknowledge the book: Killarney, history and heritage also, but must leave the reading of same to another day. The town was bustling with visitors on adjudication day and the traffic continues to tax your parking facilities to a high degree. We commend you on the high number of car parks in and around the town and the manner in which they are maintained. We inspected the public toilet and found it clean and well presented. We would welcome some tree planting in these parks and we suggest you intensify the tree planting (same species) in the car park fronting the Tourist Office. Tree planting in car parks is now a common feature throughout Europe. Our best treat unfolded when we visited the Railway Station on a fine August Thursday. The whole place was impeccable with spotlessly clean toilets, waiting room, freshly painted signage, a plethora of colourful hanging baskets and a well kept platform. We can only assume you will do well in the Iaranród Éireann Competition. Indeed the whole town was a blaze with hanging baskets, none better than the Town Hall. We also noticed a watering programme in place with special equipment for watering from ground level. Well done also on the young anti litter team who were observed picking litter in the town. Litter is still problematic in Killarney and many bins were overflowing at midday during adjudication. Also, Murphy's litter bin was overflowing outside the cycle-hire depot opposite the TIO at 12 noon. As mentioned in the first adjudication the treatment of the many roundabouts is excellent and many are quite colourful. Roundabouts should vary in landscaping presentation and you still have opportunity to enhance many of the current ones. In summary, the town was still attracting thousands of visitors after a quarter of a millennium of tourism, so we congratulate you on such a high achievement. We also notice from the 2005 report that you have nine Green Flags and this contributed to your Waste Minimisation mark for the current year.