

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Listowel** Ref: **345**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **269**
Category: **D** Date(s): **23/07/2006**
10/08/2006

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	46
The Built Environment	50	39
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	269

Overall Development Approach:

Listowel is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included an extract from your planned work programme and brochures, all of which facilitated the adjudication process. It is good to note that the Tidy Towns Committee has gained the support of the business community, statutory bodies and the schools and that you are active in promoting the Tidy Towns philosophy. Listowel is a town with a rich cultural heritage which is world famous and enjoys the benefit of a wonderful built environment also.

The Built Environment:

The square looked wonderful again this year and the adjudicator never tires of admiring your street furniture with its literary theme. Your nomination for the Irish Shopfront Award has not been considered due to the appearance of its upper stories, although it is acknowledged that the shopfront itself looks well. Landscaping and the overall presentation of your Civic Centre was excellent. Continue to encourage shop owners to remove dated beer signs. The Garda Station was attractively presented as were most buildings in the town. Avoid awnings such as those which feature on the Cut and Curl hairdressing salon premises in favour of the open ended straight edged type of canopy. The Kerry County Council offices at the Millennium Gate appeared to have been freshly painted and looked well. Well done on the treatment of derelict buildings. Work accomplished for Listowel Castle is acknowledged and the new sculpture was admired and the area has been considered for the Landscape Award.

Landscaping:

It is good to note that the old mart car park / site is to be redeveloped for retail use and that the old site in Mill Lane will soon be developed for government offices. No doubt new developments will be finished to a high standard and nicely landscaped. The new Supervalu shopping centre looks well but its landscaping could be

extended and must be maintained weed free, the plant containers marking the entrance need to be replanted. The hedgerow boundary to the Kerry Coop commercial premises on the Tralee Road was admired. Flower displays throughout the town at numerous locations were colourful and profuse and are balanced nicely by your stands of mature trees and your many semi-mature and young trees also. Your Garden of Europe continues to impress, might there be scope for additional interpretation here?

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Well done on work accomplished for this year's competition. We note the installation of bird nesting boxes in the town park and the promotion of your nature walks along the banks of the River Feale together with the bog and (Sive) walks. We wish you well with the proposed extension of river walks from the race course to the rear of the hotel and hope that it is found to be feasible. Perhaps a bird survey might be conducted of birds using the nesting boxes and school children involved with this project.

Litter Control:

The overall appearance of Listowel was one of a litter free town, however weak spots included the verges and footpath of the Tralee approach road and overflowing bins, both in the Garden of Europe and on the river walk behind the castle. It is good to note the acquisition of a road sweeper by the Town Council and the installation of a CCTV system at the bring centre in the civic carpark. Well done on the involvement of school children in litter activities.

Waste Minimisation:

At the time of adjudication the recycling point in the Civic Centre carpark was being cleaned and reference has already been made above to the installation of a CCTV system at this point. It is good to note that schools and businesses segregate their waste material and participate in waste collection for recycling. We wish you well with your proposed composting projects as part of the Green School initiative. To compete successfully under this heading it will be necessary to devise ways of reducing the amount of waste generated by the various sectors of the community in addition to collecting and segregating for recycling.

Tidiness:

Well done on work accomplished for public signage and road marking together with fly posting and graffiti. It is good to note that ducting has been installed in newly paved footpaths. The town centre appears to have sufficient litter bins and these were being well used. Side areas and rear areas in general were nicely presented and the wirescape free aspect of the town square is visually pleasing.

Residential Areas:

It was good to note the new dwellings located across the road from the entrance to the Civic Centre carpark as this site was derelict when last seen by the adjudicator. The dwellings of single storey cut stone cottages on Court House road were admired as was the terrace of period dwellings leading to the entrance to the Millennium Arch and Garden of Europe. The new residential development located opposite Advance Pitshop look well also and one wonders if they are to be painted or left with their cement finish. We look forward to the landscaping within new housing developments and commend the committee on the various competitions for Best Kept Estate and Gardens. The bilingual nature of signs throughout the town and particularly of signs for residential developments is noted.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Your ongoing maintenance of approach roads to the town is of a high standard and the resurfacing of footpaths in Bridge Road and William Street is noted also. Finger post signage throughout the town is of a high order and facilitates ease of negotiation through Listowel's streets. Carparks overlooking the river appear to be nicely landscaped and surfaced together with the carpark at the Civic Centre. We wish you well with the rehabilitation of the bridge.

General Impression:

Listowel is a town where heritage and the built environment are integrated successfully to enrich the quality of life for the community and heighten awareness for the visitor. We look forward to future visits to your town and to charting your progress in the competition.

Second Round Adjudication:

The town was active with many visitors on second adjudication day. It is great to witness the castle open after so many years of development: good strategy too to share the desk at Seanchaí. This entrance has improved and the landscaping at the castle entrance makes a welcome change from places like Athenry, so well done. We always admire the square and in particular the surrounding footpaths and rich limestone kerbing. The river

walk is attractive and is fittingly introduced by the Millenium Arch: the plaque here is poor in presentation and the script needs painting already. Far better that you invest in a bronze one if budget permits. Listowel continues to progress and much of your landscape efforts of previous years are now bearing fruit: well done on a good performance.