

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kinsale** Ref: **181**  
County: **Cork (South)** Mark: **280**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **12/06/2007**  
**19/08/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	46
The Built Environment	50	39
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	37
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>280</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Thank you of the completed entry form together with the comprehensive three year plan.

As set out there you are coping with the main drainage scheme this year in addition to the under grounding of the ESB Telecom cables. Kinsale's very success has given it the characteristics of a strong magnet attracting more and more traffic to its narrow and quaint streets. Cars, both parked and moving, are intrusive in such a brittle setting and the long term prevision of a Park and Ride system perhaps coupled with a more extensive introduction of pedestrianization areas will be forced upon you.

We are delighted that the future of the Temperance Hall is now secure and that the traditional slate rendering is still to the fore. New buildings, particularly the Fire Station added considerably while the provision of organised car parking at Shear Water is applauded. Kinsale's real joy is the perfusion of short, narrow streets and allies many of which leaves one breathless with admiration for their presentation. The Harbour and its every growing, extensive range of yachts is also a main focal point for the centre. We noted the huge new building development taking place at Upper Compass Hill.

### The Built Environment:

The provision of an architectural advice service by the Town Council is a significant and beneficial initiative. The policy of infill building is to be applauded. Do not be too disappointed that some derelict building sites take longer to "recycle". We are encouraged by the determined, resolute decisions to solve these problems. It would be foolish, indeed impossible to nominate individual premises for laudable mention, there is such profusion throughout the centre. The use of historic plaques on the Temperance Hall was a lovely touch while the Castle Customs House was delightful. We liked particularly the view of Kinsale Castle from the Gant's Cottage at the end of Chairman's Lane. New building notable the Fire Station and the elevated B&B, The Anchorage which is so visually significant certainly caught the eye. The use of vibrant yet matching colours

throughout the centre on shutters and other building details, added greatly to the overall, delightful impression. The Kinsale Outdoor Education Centre looked very attractive. The premises Satin and Lace looked most attractive but the Sea View Bar was looking somewhat tired. The collection of colourful houses in Summer Cove was a joy. The impact of the main Hotels, Actons, Bluehaven, Perryville House and The White House are beneficial, significant and are applauded.

### **Landscaping:**

The natural topography and generations of good sensible landscaping has made Kinsale a very special place. Pride of place must go to the maturing rose garden at the Harbour while the Market House Square was equally a delight. The sea wall at the glen is now intact and looks well. We note the development of a new car park at the commencement of the Quay. The steep streets with their slate faced houses are a delight. Individual colourful flowers throughout both in private gardens and in incidental areas add a great splash of vibrant colour to the overall.

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

The encouragement of wildlife within the Kinsale Tidy Towns area is to be encouraged and ample opportunities do exist. We applaud particularly the very comprehensive and worthwhile information board at the entrance to Silly Bog. The entrance here was quite enticing. We also applaud the development of the protected wildlife area near Knocknacurra. A programme of wildlife appreciation, perhaps centred on the schools would be beneficial for the upcoming generations.

### **Litter Control:**

Sadly was an all too prevalent presents on the day of adjudication. Allowing for the huge volume of visitors it is necessary to have substantial numbers of frequently, serviced litter bins. Where this does not happen for example at Charles Fort a great deal of disfigurement can quickly accumulate, such was the position on the day of adjudication. A number of approach roads were also, certainly not to the same extent, marred in this manner. We applaud your plans to commence local school competitions and also to secure the services of additional litter wardens. Sadly this later course will probable prove inevitable. But encourage the provision of increased numbers of litter bins perhaps sponsored by local concerns.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

We were pleased to receive a leaflet at the farmers market outlining the importance to reduce, reuse and recycle as part of our shared future. This type of message is perhaps of equal import to the provision of convenient methods. Accordingly our efforts to locate a permanent Civic Amenity Centre within or close to Kinsale is welcomed. The existing centre while being well used is somewhat removed from the centre and must act as a deterrent to some to use its excellent facilities.

### **Tidiness:**

The overall town is a real joy. The provision of new litter bins, the employment of part-time staff in weed and clean ups, including the painting of street furniture is working to a considerable degree. The programme to remove all obsolete and derelict poles throughout the centre is also applauded. Road surfaces in some cases, notable the West Road and at Charles Fort were very much below standard. The beautiful traditional lamp posts at Scilly required to be brushed and repainted. We were disappointed to note the broken and rusted railing at Charles Fort itself while a number of directional signposts in this area were very much in need of replacing. The broken gate at The Spaniard Restaurant jarred but also exposed its back yard to view and should be repaired as soon as possible.

### **Residential Areas:**

Within the centre individual houses were in many cases brightly coloured, freshly painted and featured window boxes, hanging baskets and other embellishments. Those in St. John's Terrence caught the eye while the Lobster Cottage on the approach road was splendid. The Ardbrack Heights were most attractively presented while those at St. Nicholas Gate and St. Joseph's Terrence looked well. The garden of Monastery Garden Terrence looked extremely good especially the most interesting front facing wall of small stone. The structure and entrance detailing was of an extremely high order. Houses on the approach roads generally also had a very neat, orderly and inviting appearance.

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

The approaches to Kinsale, filled as they are with anticipation are inviting and attractive. Not surprisingly there are perhaps too many signs for Bed & Breakfast's and other facilities. Many of these signs are not in there first freshness and one would question whether they give a fair representation of the premises to which they seek to attracted custom. There is a degree of traffic spoil which is evident at the base of front facing walls and at

the side of roads between pavements and walls. Parking is a continuous difficulty and in this connection we applaud the good parking that has been organised along The Glenn.

Your program of planting native trees and shrubs on all approach roads is commendable. The program of improving the lighting on your narrow walkways and lanes will make them even more enticing and is certainly to be encouraged. Street furniture throughout the centre, particularly along by the Harbour area was of a high order. The use of inset stone, bilingual, nameplate plaques into the pavements is a good initiative and is much admired.

### **General Impression:**

Kinsale is a special town not only in Irish terms but in an European context as well. Blessed by topography and richly endowed by history, the centre is a Mecca for visitors from quite literally around the world. These attributes necessarily impose upon the present generation of custodians a duty to be vigilant in order to preserve, enhance and present their centre to the optimum degree. Wonderful programmes and commendable initiatives have been taking and are continuing. It is disappointing for you and for your adjudicator that on this occasion the ever present difficulty of litter detracted from an overall delightful experience. As the adjudication day was Tuesday on this occasion he was fortunate to enjoy the market day with its added vitality, colour, verve and movement, underscoring just how wonderful Kinsale at its best can be.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The second adjudication was carried out during an early morning inspection by this adjudicator on a pleasant bright morning. The advantage of little or no traffic was much appreciated as the density of traffic increased as the morning wore on. However, the early morning inspection revealed a dimension of Kinsale not previously experienced by this adjudicator. The overnight traffic parking was bordering on the reckless and many narrow streets were a serious hindrance to those wishing to get around the town due to careless parking. Full credit to the town cleaning staff observed collecting litter at 8-30 a.m. The town's entrance was much admired with the rich colourful display of flowers and landscaping at the Cork approach. We note the Sea view Service Station is under construction and we hope the finished development will match the high standard of the town. No doubt the new 110 room five-star hotel planned for the current car park will become a major focal point of the town. We hope it will be appropriately landscaped and presented. The Milk Market and environs are still your best effort and we commend all associated with the high maintenance of such a standard. Please ensure you include a street map with next year's entry. We are surprised that over 20 years since you won the National Overall Award you still have unsightly service poles with cables waiting under grounding. We also notice no progress on the old convent; it is over two years since a development proposal was posted on this building. It is now quite an eyesore. You also have some pockets of graffiti. When last visited the new rose garden was under construction. We feel its standard needs upgrading. You might consider visiting the rose garden in Tralee which is much admired and is a tourism product in its own right. The Harbour area was well presented and the vast amount of craft on the water illustrates the popularity of Kinsale. You have maintained your mark in the high league and you now need to revisit many of your plans of previous years. Your traffic is so intense now as to make the town problematic for pedestrians. As mentioned by the first adjudicator you should think seriously about a park and ride system that would give comfort to pedestrians and boost business in the process. We commend your efforts over so many years and we hope the 50th anniversary of Tidy Towns will prove a further catalyst for further excellence.