

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kenmare** Ref: **339**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **296**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **13/07/2007**  
**07/08/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	48
The Built Environment	50	39
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	29
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	21
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	39
General Impression	10	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>296</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Kenmare is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Kenmare is a town surrounded by natural beauty and is steeped in history and culture.

### The Built Environment:

The Garda station is well painted and highly maintained. The Kenmare Boys National School from area could be repaved to improve its appearance. Weeding to the side of the building is also required. Repainting of JD O'Sullivan's supermarket would have it in keeping with the rest of the well painted buildings in the street. The main street of Kenmare is very well kept and the use of old style signage helps it to retain its heritage appearance. Shop keepers are to be commended for the work done in keeping their shop fronts in such good appearance.

### Landscaping:

The landscaping of the Garda station was immaculate as was the much of the landscaping throughout the town. The old abbey at the top of the hill would be a good restoration project and signage of its history would also be a welcome addition. The road entering the GAA could use with some cleaning up. It was noticed that the sign at the main gate has been removed and is in storage. Restoration of this gate area would make it more appealing. The maintenance area would also looked better if it was enclosed in fencing to hide its contents. The monument featuring rocks from throughout Ireland is an interesting and unique feature. There is also some need for weeding in the general public area of the grand. The actual playing field is very well kept and has a beautiful outlook. The park entering from the Lauragh road is a good feature that allows people to relax and enjoy the natural scenery. An addition of a picnic table would allow people to lunch here.

### Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The maintenance of the reenagross walk, bat sanctuary and pier area has been well looked after. It is good to see school children participating in this

#### **Litter Control:**

The presence of cigarette disposal units in the main street was well noted and assisted in reducing the number of cigarette butts. The town was very litter free on the day of adjudication. The only exception to this was the park at the bridge on the entry road from Lauragh. There were several pieces of rubbish in evidence here. It is highly noted the work that the committee do in emptying the bins in peak season.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Kenmare has done well for all its schools to achieve green flag status. It is also well noted that it is children from the National school that are promoting waste minimisation around in Kenmare in the form of posters. It is also good to hear that you have a textile recycling scheme. The effort undertaken by "Club Restaurant" to recycle its waste and it would be good if this could be repeated with other restaurants in the area.

#### **Tidiness:**

The moving of cables underground on Main st is a welcome achievement. It allows both visitors and residents to view the shop fronts without cables blocking the way. The new lamp posts are in keeping with the heritage aspect of the town. No gum was noticed on the streets so it is good to see your power hosing is having a very positive effect. Your position on fly posting also has kept the town looking very tidy.

#### **Residential Areas:**

All residential areas visited were well landscaped and maintained. The use of natural stone throughout the town has assisted in maintaining the historic picture of Kenmare.

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

The resurfacing of the car park at the recycling point is well noted. It is good to see that your footpaths extend out to your new estates.

#### **General Impression:**

Kenmare is a beautifully maintained town that has retained its historic roots through careful town planning. It has also managed to retain a traditional feel whilst not taking on the appearance of a "touristy" town with garish signage. This is a great achievement considering the amount of tourists that visit the area and it is great to see the committee is working so well with the businesses and the general community of Kenmare.

#### **Second Round Adjudication:**

To do justice to the town of Kenmare in adjudication terms and to appreciate the efforts of the tidy town committee and the greater Kenmare community it was necessary to engage in the adjudication process early in the morning.

On reflection this was a very wise move as come 11am the town was packed with visitors and the weekly market was about to get into full swing.

It is to the eternal credit of the Committee that it has succeeded in ensuring that basic works under each of the competition categories are completed to a very high standard. This is the platform for your continuous high rating in the competition.

As early as 8am litter was being collected by hand cart and disposed of at the well appointed and well managed recycling centre.

Your concerns about problems such as embedded chewing gum, the plague of most villages and towns, were noted but the streets were relatively clear of the dreaded problem.

The town has seen much infrastructural change over the last few years and one must comment favourably on the new building developments that have taken place as they have blended in well with the existing town architecture JB McCarthy's impressive building being a case and point.

The town is noted for the vibrant colours of its properties – greyness is something that could not be attributed to Kenmare. These properties have been complemented by colourful planters, hanging baskets and appropriate tree planting.

Overall the landscaping arrangements viewed in the town proper and its extremities were to a very high standard and most importantly were well tended to which given the summer we are having is a credit to the people responsible for this work. This adjudicator was taken with the wildflower planting on the river bank at Bridge Street.

Public buildings such as both national schools and community school, the excellent Garda Station, Heritage Centre and St Patrick's Church and grounds were very well presented.

Quite a number of attractive shop fronts were observed and the Kenmare Book shop is an example of

simplicity in design but very effective and easy on the eye.

It is a pity to see T Mahony Main Street becoming a little bit of an eyesore in such high standard surroundings, maybe there are plans to refurbish this fine premises.

Kenmare is not immune to the problem of fly posting on shop windows and this practice should be discontinued and replaced with a more unobtrusive form of posting notices.

There is proliferation of directional and name signs in the town and its outskirts, the problem being too many sited at individual locations 17 at one point alone !.

They serve only to confuse rather than help and maybe the committee might consider measures to address this problem. Finally the information board at Reenagross Park is becoming a little tatty and slightly illegible.

Well done on your efforts to keep Kenmare in the top echelons of the competition not an easy job when one considers the volume of traffic and the large number of visitors to the area.