

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knightstown** Ref: **342**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **265**
Category: **A** Date(s): **15/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	265

Overall Development Approach:

Knightstown is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission and letter. It is great to see you have continued to participate for 24 years running and it is great to see the pride you have in your village. It is also good to see the level of commitment you have from other voluntary groups. It was especially good to hear the work you have been undertaking to encourage people to minimise waste by ensuring that every house has a compost bin. There are some projects such as the sensory garden refurbishment are very promising, however they were not completed at the time of adjudication.

The Built Environment:

Most shops and businesses premises are extremely well presented with business owners obviously taking much pride in maintaining their properties to the highest standards. Unfortunately and very sadly for those involved in the tragedy, a search and rescue process was underway on the day of adjudication. Due to this the lifeboat premises and surrounding area was not accessible. The clock tower is very well painted and a great feature. The Church of the Immaculate Conception was very neat and well looked after. It is very good to see the Tidy Towns group actively taking on the responsibility of keeping an amenity such as the public toilets to a high standard. The re-roofing of the Garda station/Valencia heritage centre was also being undertaken on the day of adjudication and the dark slate will look good against the bright colours. The Church also had slate on the grounds so presumption is that you will also be upgrading the roof here too.

Landscaping:

The sensory garden in the Church of Ireland was still being upgraded at the time of adjudication so it cannot be stated as to what the end result will be at this stage. However, the grounds are a wonderful and peaceful seating especially with the large old trees that surround the garden. The landscaping along the promenade and main shopping area were well done without being overpowering of the surrounding scenery.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Altazam walk is a wonderful feature for the town and it is great to see that it is wheel chair accessible. The wildlife Habitat signs and also descriptions of the wildlife that can be found in the area were very informative. There were some weeds on the entry that need to be removed.

Litter Control:

It is noted that you have a very comprehensive system in place to keep litter under control. The town was generally litter free in the main areas. However, some of the side streets off the main thoroughfare did have some litter. The bottle bank did however have some rubbish around it on the day of adjudication.

Waste Minimisation:

It is great to hear that you are working with the County Council to encourage good environmental practices. Your accomplishment of every household having a compost bin is a very good achievement.

Tidiness:

The new welcome signs are very well done and a great addition to the town. There were no fly posters in sight on the day of adjudication and your commitment to dissuading usage of this form of advertising is commendable.

Residential Areas:

The new development on the waterfront looks very good. It would be good to see the derelict house located here restored as it is such a wonderful position. By looking at the building supplies in the area this is hopefully the case. The new footpaths are of good width and assist in keeping the village at a high standard. It is noted that underground cables and new lighting are being installed. It is noted that there are several new housing projects underway. However, the sites were well fenced off and building supplies were all within the boundaries so this does not affect the overall judging made. The majority of private properties have been well kept.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The work undertaken currently on the footpaths is a good achievement and it will be wonderful if you do have the remaining footpath resurfaced. The resurfacing of Jane and Peter street has been achieved and another good outcome for the village. Due to new developments some areas of road do need to be repaired and some footpaths are not connected. It is assumed that once the construction is complete that this will all be addressed.

General Impression:

Knightstown is a well located sea side village that takes great pride in the presentation of its town. Though there are several new developments taking place they all appear to be of a high standard and fit into the seaside image of the town.