

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Listowel** Ref: **345**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **282**
Category: **D** Date(s): **09/07/2007**
07/08/2007

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2007 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 46 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 39 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 37 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 36 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 32 |
| Waste Minimisation | 20 | 3 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 17 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 29 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 35 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 282 |

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations on such strong community involvement, especially with the business community. Congratulations also on your 2 green flags for the schools and it is great to see Tidy Towns working with the school via awareness talks

The Built Environment:

The new businesses Woulfes Bookshop and Horans fruit and vegetable look well and it is great to see this buildings occupied. It is noted that all signage in the town is bilingual. The repositioning of the Millennium Arch has worked well and the new stone wall replaced at St Michaels graveyard was admired. The new development at Mill Lane is very well done and we look forward to seeing the completed project next year. However, as noted in your submission, the buildings backing on to this site now need to be reviewed as most are quite run down and are now very visible. The new Gael scoil entry off library street is neat and well landscape. The new sculpture of J.B.Keane was admired and it ads character to the streetscape.

Landscaping:

The landscaping on the roadside and entrances to the new estate at Ballygologue Road is well represented. Several of the new estates were visited and it was good to see the landscaping in these areas. The competition for businesses is unique. It is also good to see the use of native trees and shrubbery. The competition to encourage businesses to display flowers is motivating for businesses to take responsibility for the presentation of their shop front.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Garden of Europe is a wonderful area to walk around and generally very well kept. However some of the signs need replacing and there are also areas where people take a short cut through to the garden. Additional signage to where the entry of the garden is would assist to reduce this as we were confused ourselves where it started. Perhaps actually adding a proper pathway to this area would also assist. There is also another 'unofficial' high traffic area at the start of the paths near the river. The two paths are next to each other but there is no connection until further around the corner. This cannot be seen when at the end of the path and many people cross over between the two paths. Perhaps a connection here would be beneficial too and it would allow a 'loop' to be undertaken. The walk behind the castle is very well done and was being enjoyed by several people on the day of adjudication. It is noted your ongoing work in maintaining this area

Litter Control:

Well done on your participation in Spring Clean. You have also worked well to discourage dumping at the Bring Bank. There was some litter apparent on the main streets on the day of adjudication. The bin on the street outside Supervalu was overflowing.

Waste Minimisation:

Is it good to see that segregated waste is being undertaken by some members of the community including businesses. It would be good if a community composting scheme could be established and education on this and other recycling provided. A waste survey would assist in establishing which members (e.g. business, residential) etc needed targeting,

Tidiness:

Listowel has received a good result with its upkeep of graffiti removal. It is also noted that the street lighting on O'Connell has been upgraded and that plastic signage has been discouraged.

Residential Areas:

It is fantastic to hear the work you are doing in assisting residents groups to be formed. Well done on you Best Kept Estate, Best Kept Garden and Best Presentation of a Container awards. They are a great idea for motivating the community. It was good to note that most of your signage is bilingual for estates. Estates were well kept and it was good to see green spaces available.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All approach roads on the day of adjudication were very well kept. In general the roads and footpaths are all in good order. The work done on the Woodford approach was appreciated. Resurfacing of roads and footpaths taken place on Bridge road, Ballygologue road and Clieveragh since last year was noted.

General Impression:

Listowel is a well kept town that is handling its growth well whilst keeping its traditional heritage. Much work has been done to ensure that new estates are connected to the community. A great effort to increase access to natural wildlife through creation of nature walks is also apparent. It is noted the proactiveness you are taking to address some of the issues you face with dog fouling, cigarette ends, and the dumping of drink containers.

Second Round Adjudication:

One was impressed with the Committees strategic approach as outlined in the introductory comment in your submission. It is important to ensure that any work to be undertaken has a long term benefit to the town and more importantly to be of a sustainable nature – so well done on this type of approach to your long term planning of projects.

The Square in the town looked very impressive on a calm and not too busy summers evening, this is when one can appreciate such a fine built environment feature at its best. Road surfaces and footpaths in the Square were top class and the area was set off by nice and unobtrusive street lighting with planters containing the ubiquitous but colourful combination of busy lizzies, marigolds and petunias.

The Town has embraced tree planting as an urban necessity and these were prudently placed especially in

the aforementioned Square.

Some fine old shop fronts were observed such as J O Donovan and DJ Flavin and these complemented new premises such as the re vitalized Plaza.

On the minus side it is sad to see two premises with long association with Listowel now closed and slightly looking the worse for wear I refer to Chutes and the Central Hotel (With Maid of Erin Plaster Sculpture).

The old Mart premises on the corner of Market Street is due for development and this should improve this particular area of the Town immeasurably.

Tidiness and litter control was acceptable with room for improvement some litter visible at Market Street, Bridge Street and in Childers Park. One is aware that the Committee is making strong progress in spreading the message of good litter control.

The residential areas visited were well maintained especially established town houses one encounters in Upper Church Street and on Charles Street. Credit also to the Bridge Street residents for the manner in which they have presented their premises.

Approach entrances into the town have improved since the last time this adjudicator did a detailed examination, verges were well presented and signs were visible and clean.

In an overall context the Town continues to improve and has gained a substantial mark increase in the last few years.

Continue with this good work and well done on what you have achieved to date.