

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Sneem** Ref: **349**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **284**
Category: **B** Date(s): **14/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	45
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	284

Overall Development Approach:

Sneem is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition, It has been very well noted the high level of accomplishment volunteers have achieved in maintaining and restoring points in the town and it has been very well done. The high standard Sneem has achieved could not be done without the efforts of volunteers. Much thought has gone into the direction Sneem wishes to take in regards to keeping a natural environment and you are to be highly commended for the preservation of your community.

The Built Environment:

The Sneem hotel was completed and receiving guests on the day of adjudication. It is good to see the use of stone. The school building was well kept and the flower mural painting helps to liven up the environment. The back of the school needs some repainting in some areas. At the time of adjudication renovations were underway so the grounds were disturbed. However the addition of new sports courts is very welcome to the school grounds. The front of the school is well landscaped, however it does limit the green playing space. Perhaps more green space could be made at the back of the school to allow for this. Both the church and the Garda station were very well kept. The new gate at the toilet block is a welcome addition. The new rowing building is a welcome addition but was development of the site had not been completed at time of adjudication.

Landscaping:

The central green was in wonderful condition and very much in use by many people picnicking on the day of adjudication. The sensory garden has been thoughtfully constructed and is a tribute to the town. Wheel chair accessibility to areas of the park is well thought out. It was also good to note the many chairs along the route of the path so that people may rest. The new playground had not opened at the time of adjudication and was fenced off. However, it must be near completion and it looks bright and inviting and is a welcome addition to

the town. The bbq is a very good addition to the park and is both an interesting and practical design. There were some old dead branches and clippings that had been thrown into the bushes that did detract from the otherwise very well kept area. The revitalisation of the grotto is well done.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The water viewing platform is a great construct that allows viewers to watch the river pass beneath them. This was particularly appreciated by several children observed crossing the bridge. It is good to see recognition of the FAS participants both within the park and your Tidy Towns application for creating new areas and maintaining the parklands. This is a good community gesture that results in a sense of pride from those who have participated in the scheme and may encourage others to do so either through FAS or as volunteers. It is noted your plan to train volunteers to monitor bird species. This could perhaps be a project the school is involved in. It is well noted your work towards ensuring that nature is accessible to people in the town and your work in attracting and protecting red list and other species. The providing of information of species in the area is also welcome, though some of the signs on the River Walk and the Wild Garden are faded from water damage and need to be replaced. The bird boxes on the school grounds are a great way to educate children on wildlife.

Litter Control:

On the day of adjudication Sneem was reasonably clean. As it was the height of tourist season it is difficult to keep a town so influxed with visitors perfectly free of litter. The litter that was seen was generally fresh indicating that an ongoing litter maintenance program is in action. The grotto did have some rubbish in its grounds and also gardening soil bags and several empty pots were also there. These would be better stored offsite. It is great to hear to involvement that the school has in litter concerns.

Waste Minimisation:

It was great to see a compost bin available at the school and its green flag status. The Bring Bank was well maintained except for a bag of rubbish that had been left there. The access to a community compost heap is commendable. It is also very interesting to hear the work that is being undertaken by the GeoPark to promote reduction in both business and personal waste. I will be interested to watch as the work with the GeoPark progresses and I wish you well on obtaining your UNESCO status.

Tidiness:

The area beside the Geopark could be maintained a bit more. In general there is still quite a bit of development being undertaken. Although it can not be helped, once all this is completed it will show a more complete picture of the towns appearance. We look forward to your outlined objectives in this area.

Residential Areas:

It is noted that much development is currently underway within Sneem. Creation of suitable landscaping in keeping with the town will help to integrate these new developments into the town as outlined in your plan. Some of the new estates have successfully undertaken this successfully and the use of stone and wood into the landscaping is in keeping with the natural focus you are aiming for. Most of the building sites were reasonably clean. The older residential areas of the town were well maintained and most residents appear to take great pride in their dwellings. The new carved sign for seaview is a welcome form of signage.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Some areas of road still require resurfacing but in general the standard of road is good. It is great to see the high number of street furniture in the town which allows people to relax and enjoy the surrounds.

General Impression:

Sneem is a very busy town in tourist season and at the time of adjudication had 8 buses in town. It is therefore a very good achievement to keep the town so free of litter. The shop fronts are brightly painted and sit well amongst the native surrounds. The work undertaken to ensure that nature is felt and seen throughout the town has had great affect.