

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Kinsale** Ref: **181**  
County: **Cork(South)** Mark: **287**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **17/06/2009**  
**22/07/2009**

|                                | Maximum<br>Mark | Mark<br>Awarded 2009 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach   | 50              | 46                   |
| The Built Environment          | 50              | 40                   |
| Landscaping                    | 50              | 39                   |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50              | 26                   |
| Litter Control                 | 50              | 35                   |
| Waste Minimisation             | 20              | 10                   |
| Tidiness                       | 30              | 18                   |
| Residential Areas              | 40              | 30                   |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 50              | 35                   |
| General Impression             | 10              | 8                    |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>400</b>      | <b>287</b>           |

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for the typed up entry form and map of Kinsale. I read with interest your letter on the 2009 programme. The main drainage scheme has taken its toll on the town, but I felt that this work is being done in a careful and responsible manner. After all, the town will be much better once the new system is in place. In the interim, you have identified and assisted with the first step in the road to recovery of your town, with external painting of all houses and business houses, and this subsidised paint scheme is an excellent idea. You have a good size committee and there is great commitment from all the 20 members to give up a lot of their spare time to work for the TidyTowns Competition. I note you get support from a number of agencies and bodies. The local people are well informed about your plans and activities through the newsletters, Southern Star Newspaper and town notice boards. It is worthwhile to keep in touch, as you are doing, with the local schools. We are pleased that you find the competition to be very competitive and it creates a feeling of belonging to an area. The very many events organised throughout the year are great social occasions and enables people to interact with others that they might not normally meet. All of this means, you have a great overall development approach.

### **The Built Environment:**

The development of Kinsale is extremely well planned, with the new business premises blending in very well, with the traditional shops, offices and private houses. The built environment, consisting of public buildings and shops and offices, is more or less confined to the control of statutory bodies and business people, but you have a central role to play to ensure that proper planning is put in place to keep your town in an orderly fashion, that suits the needs of the local community. The condition of the premises is great, with well maintained houses that are brightly coloured and tastily decorated. It is more or less unfair to mention some places and leave out some others, but I was attracted to some. An Seanachai, Tierney's B&B, Lord Kinsale Lounge, Bluehaven Hotel, Supervalu, 1601 off license and the Garda Station. The Churches (RC, Methodist

and Col) are supreme with defining architectural qualities and impressive landscaping. I liked Kinsale Pharmacy, The Museum (closed on a Wednesday morning in June) is attractive, and sported antique fishing / ship material, such as the anchor and the float. The tourist office is really special. But there are many more which are just as good as the ones mentioned, and in some cases perhaps even better.

### **Landscaping:**

Neat finger signs, attractive trees in tubs, that also contained beautiful flowers plus other trees, that soften the visual impact of some buildings, set a trend in Barry's place that is repeated many times elsewhere in the town. There was great garden furniture and splendid tubs of flowers outside the Milk Market café. Dalton's bar had attractive paintings on the wall of An Rós, An Nóinín and Smeara. I admired the sculpture of Peter Barry. The memorial "Who goes down in the sea" nestles peacefully with neat shrubs and flowers plus the shrubbery with the bird feature, that adorn their location. Traditional water pumps are good reminders of a bygone day. There were fine amenity areas in many places that contained well kept grass spaces and fine garden furniture, and these give the walkers a chance to have a rest on a fine sunny day. Landscaping was excellent at the harbour and was bolstered by the fine stone wall. The sculptures of Mortimor McCarthy and Timothy McCarthy, the Kinsale hooker and sundial are excellent features. I sat in the great park with the fountain and enjoyed a variety of flowers, shrubs, lawns and the public seating is unusual, but excellent. A picturesque view of the water and the fishing boats suggests to me that millions of photographs were taken around this point. Good quality notice boards are attractive and give interesting information. Well maintained grass areas are refreshing and attractive. Kinsale has natural landscaping of magnificent traditional stone walls and mature trees.

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

The town's people and tourists are exceptionally well catered for with the walks, all of which have natural beauty. There is an abundance of wildlife in all those wonderful trees and stone walls. I note you have plans to meet the harbour authority on ongoing cleaning and upgrading of facilities, and the promotion of water based activities. A wildlife notice-board was admired.

### **Litter Control:**

You have a very positive attitude to the perennial litter threat. I note you won the overall prize in 2007 County Litter Campaign. The national problem of cigarette ends and chewing gum residue was in Kinsale, but most of the business people were addressing the situation by sweeping and washing outside their shops. There were numerous litter bins that were well serviced all around the town.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

I inspected the waste recycling facility, up at the County Council premises. There were a number of bins for bottles, cans and clothes, that looked fresh and clean. I noticed here a container for cardboard, which is most welcome as we find in other areas the people leave cardboard boxes dumped beside the bins. This area was spotlessly clean and all concerned with the upkeep of this facility are to be congratulated. The issuing of plastic sacks of varying colours plus gloves to resident's associations and schools gives a good example of how to treat waste by segregating it.

### **Tidiness:**

The ongoing construction works have a negative visual impact in some areas, but this essential work is being carried out in a responsible manner. A telephone kiosk in Barry's place had the door removed. Stock items, belonging to some traders, were stored on the footpaths. For the most part, the town was fresh and clean.

### **Residential Areas:**

There are numerous private houses all around the town that showed wonderful displays of lawns, walls, trees, hedging, shrubs and flowers that bolster the great public landscaping, and some of these houses were outstanding and picturesque. There is a very high standard of well maintained housing estates in Kinsale, but some of the new estates have in particular outstanding landscaping and entrances, and impressive planning was put in place for these estates. The traditional town houses are very well presented and it is obvious that house owners have taken on board your determination to give immediate priority to external painting of houses.

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

Roads are disrupted here, what is caused by the main drainage scheme. Most of the other roads are in good condition and the road signage is of a high standard, especially the ones advertising Tidy Towns winner and European Entente Floral award. The approach roads have a welcoming effect with the high standard of landscaping.

**General Impression:**

It was a most enjoyable experience to revisit the area after a lapse of ten years and this town has increased greatly in size and beauty. As I walked around the town, I got a great sense of pride of place coming from all the town's people. When the necessary main drainage scheme is completed, Kinsale will be poised to once again become the overall winner of the competition. You can be justly proud of the achievements to date.

**Second Round Adjudication:**

It is always a pleasure to visit Kinsale, one of Europe's special places. Its list of awards and distinctions include European Prize for Tourism Environment, of which it was the inaugural winner. It is slowly rejuvenating itself after the major surgery of a new main drainage scheme. The colour, panache, buzz and excitement, for which it is justly famous, continue as before, thankfully and were very much in evidence on the day of adjudication. Outside the main tourism routes, as well things were well presented and appealing – the communal grassed area in Butchers Row, for example and on the road by the relatively new fire station, which continues to look well presented. Scilly Bay area, Summer Cove and Charles Fort were as popular as ever and delightfully litter free. The newly painted Spaniard Restaurant caught the eye. In some locations, signposts and, especially their poles need attention. One hopes that the attractive water features by the delightful park at Graving Dock will soon be operational again.

Of course it is the labyrinth of bright, colourful narrow streets, dotted with restaurants with their fine displays of flowers in window boxes and hanging baskets that are at the core of Kinsale's universal appeal. It is good to report that the recent, most necessary, large scale engineering works have not for long diminished their eternal appeal.