

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kenmare** Ref: **339**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **312**
Category: **D** Date(s): **02/06/2013**
01/08/2013

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	47	47
The Built Environment	50	40	41
Landscaping	50	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	31	31
Litter Control	50	38	40
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	11	13
Tidiness	30	21	22
Residential Areas	40	31	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	41	41
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	306	312

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2013 National SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your comprehensive submission, which included a clear map containing a numbered legend which was of great assistance to the adjudicator. The presentation of your completed application form was excellent and clearly and simple outlined your communications, activities and programme of work. The committee's partnership approach with a host of other organisations is very effective and involves the public bodies, local businesses, educational institutions and the wider community to great effect. Well done on the Facebook and Website initiatives. The Kenmare Development approach continues to set a high standard in the Tidy Towns Competition.

The Built Environment:

The Corpus Christi procession was about to take place on the day of adjudication and town centre buildings were presented to an exceptional standard. Henry Street and Main Street contain some really fine, colourful examples of well-presented shop-fronts. There are many excellent illustrations of vibrant colour schemes containing good quality signage both hand-painted and individual raised lettering. Hanging signs are a feature throughout and set a high standard of presentation. On Henry Street, Simplicity with its gold-leafed, raised lettering was particularly admired. Further along The Purple Heather, F.B. O'Sullivan's and The White Room combine to portray a high quality visual streetscape. On New Street the Bakery and Barber Shop again display some excellent signage. The recent repainting of J.R. McCarthy's on Main Street, is visually very effective and provides a unifying presence here. We look forward to the repainting of the Cash and Carry at Market Square. The location of the Lansdowne Arms Hotel, on a high profile corner, sets a high visual standard on arrival from Kilgarvan. Opposite the Bookshop, Leabharlann and Theatre entrance to Kenmare continues this high visual standard. The brightly painted Courthouse and Heritage Centre look great in a commanding location. The Church and Pobalscoil Inbhear Sceire, along the Railway Road, continue a high standard of presentation to both the buildings and surrounding grounds. SuperValu and Lidl have good quality car parking areas. Perhaps some additional planting and landscaping here would provide further screening and enclosure to this area. Well done on recent progress regarding your derelict sites. The screening provided at Bell Heights is effective and the moss green colour scheme is appropriate here.

Landscaping:

New planning improvements at Sheen Falls junction were noted as were your efforts to secure support from the

Tree Council. The Bridge Park on the Glengariffe/Bantry entrance is well maintained and was well used on the day of adjudication. The material storage area opposite would be hugely enhanced by the planting of a screen hedge to reduce its visual impact. The Pier road was thronged with walkers on the day and the attractive seating provided along its perimeter park was being well used. The stone cottages retain a quaint charm and many visitors took photographs here. The centre Town Park on the Square has a high usage also but some pathways were in need of weed control.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We note your application to South Kerry Development Plan regarding development at Reenagross and wish you well with this venture. The walking trail and information leaflets are excellent and of good educational value. This is an attractive area for children and a nice contrast to the well maintained children's playground adjacent to SuperValu. Your development of bat and bird boxes is a commendable venture. Well done on the production of the Baseline Ecological surveys and biodiversity conservation plan.

Litter Control:

Although the town had a large number of visitors on the day of adjudication, the town was generally litter free. Some discarded plastic bottles were observed in the car park opposite the church as were some cans and papers on the pedestrian street near Cromwell Bridge. The town centre streets were litter free. The Spring Clean involving environs and including Molls Gap was an extensive initiative and obviously very well promoted.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

Your committee continues to progress well in this category. Well done on the surveys undertaken in conjunction with the Green flag schools. Water harvesting initiatives undertaken are impressive and this topic is now gaining national attention. The Green Homes programme is obviously being supported by both the commercial and residential sectors of the community. The Bring Centre at the car park was clean and tidy but the receptacles are now becoming somewhat faded in appearance.

Tidiness:

Overall your committee have made good progress under this heading and the improvements relating to derelict sites has enhanced the overall visual quality of the town. The information sign at the Church of Ireland looks well and visually enhances the entrance here. The lamp-post standard at the pedestrian street is rusty with paintwork peeling off and visually detracts from this attractive area. The entrance area to the GAA grounds is in need of some attention and a clean up here would improve an area of great potential.

Residential Areas:

Individual private residences and gardens have a good standard throughout and many were admired. The town has a good number of estates including a number of holiday home schemes. All were visited and generally these were presented to a high standard. On the Sneem Road, Ardmullen, Millfield and Pairc na Gloire rent-a-cottage schemes have some fine hard and soft landscaping layouts and are presented to a high standard. At Barr Neidin and Ard Bhearna some weed control was required along footpath kerb lines.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads are all well maintained and the Killarney entrance looked particularly well with the old church ruin enclosing the vista. The inner relief road under construction here should in time resolve some traffic congestion issues. On the Killarney entrance, some signage needs to be rationalised as does the entrance to the service park at the fire station. This area contrasts unfavourable with the magnificent presentation of An Bruachan B & B opposite.

General Impression:

The overall impression is of a successful thriving town that has successfully preserved its character and charm. New developments have been sympathetically integrated and continue to enhance your unique character and setting. The committee are to be congratulated on seeking professional advice on all aspects of your on-going development.

Second Round Adjudication:

Kenmare has an enviable record in the Tidy Towns programme being a Gold Medal winner in 2010, 2011 and again last year. Without exception each of the town's schools has been awarded Green Flag status. The survey of Green Houses continues apace. The large Saint John's National School was completely clear of litter as was the attractive children's play area opposite the Supervalu Supermarket. The famous Park Hotel is playing its part in the Green Campaign.

The approach to Kenmare from the north is an attractive tree lined road. But the overhead wires were especially noticeable. Are there any plans, even long term, to underground these? There is a sizeable - some might say excessive - number of commercial signs on the Killarney Road and especially opposite the Credit Union. Attention might with advantage be paid to some acceptable form of rationalisation as surely the point of diminishing returns has long since been passed. The small triangle park in the town centre with its long

established trees is quite a feature and asset. Holy Cross church and the car-park opposite were imposing, neat and orderly in turn. The many colourful shops on Main Street caught the eye, as did the Library and Theatre. The Kenmare Bay Hotel was delightfully presented featuring many trees and plants in the extensive car parking area.

The harbour area looked most inviting with plenty of seats to facilitate those whose joy it is to just sit, watch and contemplate the unfolding scene. The golf club was presented in pristine fashion. Sadly you too have your share of estates of unfinished and unoccupied holiday homes. Public buildings, Kenmare Adult Education Centre, the Garda Station and others all were positive factors as were several commercial premises. In this regard Quill's of East Park Lane was a definite stand out. The wild life cruises on the bay looked inviting even in the less that indifferent weather at the time of our visit.

The extensive road works in progress needed to alleviate traffic were fully discounted in our assessment of the centre on this occasion.

Kenmare is richly endowed with natural attractiveness and this is being appropriately enhanced by the actions by your many members, volunteers, helpers and supporters. Full credit and appreciation are extended to all involved in this year's entry.