

# Tidy Towns Competition 2019

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kenmare - Neidín** Ref: **339**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **336**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **19/06/2019**  
**01/08/2019**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2018</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2019</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	49	49
Streetscape & Public Places	60	45	46
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	40	41
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	35	36
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	22	23
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	66	67
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	34	34
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	40	40
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>336</b>

### **Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:**

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Kenmare Neidín páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019.

A committee of ten members supported by another 30 volunteers is a very healthy group which can achieve much, and we note you were applicants 60 years ago. We are conscious that you were the overall winners in 2000 and have achieved 20 gold medals so you have a good record. It is great to learn that the local SuperValu is providing a cabinet to display your gold medals. You have numerous meetings with individuals and agencies that support your work, too many to repeat here. For communications you use all the old systems and modern methods. The various schools in Kenmare are a great help and all are participants in the Green Schools programme. A word of caution regarding the question about any specific project that you would like the adjudicator to examine. When you list every project in every criterion that is pointless and doesn't answer the question, so we advise that you do not repeat that for next year's entry. We were very impressed with your colourful laminated map with projects marked for our attention. However, it would be easier to find the projects if the numbers were placed in a sequence. While the map is a good illustration of Kenmare, we missed having the extra details of the many other streets that are not shown on your map. We also need a connection between the map and the application form. While you do give a map reference in the application form, the reference back to the application form is missing from the map. In practice, adjudicators will read the application form and then use the map to navigate around the town. It is then that the difficulty arises, so we suggest an improved legend that will also have the page number of the application form for a quick reference.

Well done on the 3-year plan (2019-2022) which was done by a consultant and we are pleased that you have taken ownership of the plan by inserting dates for implementation of the projects. Please consider including a summary of the plan for next year and aim to reduce the size of your application. You are providing much too much information than we need.

### **Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:**

Kenmare is an exciting and delightful town to visit. While the streets are full of cars, we note you have provided several off-street car parking facilities to deal with the congestion caused by your popularity. Well done on the various improvements made to the built environment, especially the painting of buildings and chimneys; the impact is noticeable. We also admired your work in making vacant buildings look occupied or used. The elaborate GAA entrance was a wonderful project to undertake. Well done on this initiative. The church on Railway Road is a lovely building and the adjacent car park with white piers and low stone walls with railings added to the attractiveness. The car park opposite functions for services and for town centre visitors. The line of birch trees outside the front wall look very well and we admired the work done on the toilet block. The SuperValu complex and playground looked

well. St. John's National School is a modern building and we were pleased that landscaping was included in the contract. The hornbeam trees were fine specimens that will add more enhancement in years to come. The adjacent sports grounds look very well. Many commercial buildings in the town are well painted and the range of colours add a warm feeling. It was nice to see that some such as the Brewhouse have added floral displays in window boxes. Cleo shops and gallery brightened up the street. We were puzzled by the wide approach road to the stone circle. It seems to lead to some infrastructure but without signage, we are left guessing. St. Patrick's Church of Ireland is a lovely old building. The large yew trees here make quite an impression and the grounds are well-maintained. Finnegan's Funeral Home also pleased.

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

The town park is a delight and we noted the newly painted boundary railings on the plinth wall of stone. The notice boards/memorials regarding the 1916 centenary are faded. Removal of low branches of the trees has helped to open up the space and encourage more people to use the park. We were surprised to see the extensive sucker growth at the base of the lime trees. While this is a natural feature, the suckers are often removed to allow more space around the tree, especially in a small park such as this. The extent of grass wear is an indication of how well the park is used. Also, the worn grass from the entrance gate to the central feature suggests the need for additional pathways in this park. The standard of seating in the park is very good. Well done on the various planting schemes with an emphasis on perennials, biodiversity and pollinators. You are on the right track

### **Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:**

Well done on the success of acquiring 13.5 acres on the WAW and good luck in your plans to develop it as an amenity with walks etc and an emphasis on nature and biodiversity. You are actively participating in appropriate training such as the Neighbourhood Woodland Scheme information day and visit to Ballyseedy Wood. You are fortunate to have a SAC (Special Area of Conservation) in your vicinity and you are actively protecting the Kenmare Bay Marine Park. You have other opportunities with Reenagross Wildlife Park for more experiences and training. This is an example of strong community support for your environment. Well done on the project of identifying and listing the plant species and their biodiversity value at Cromwell's Bridge Arch. We are pleased to note that efforts are being made to eradicate Japanese Knotweed in several places. Rhododendron and Gunnera in Reenagross Wildlife Park.

### **Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:**

This category is about tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. It is a global and a local problem. To save the Earth we need to move quickly to a zero-waste society. Your town is certainly playing its part as evidence by the 18 different actions detailed in your application. That is most impressive and is perhaps the best submission I have seen from reading applications. The list includes the conscious cup campaign, the Green Homes survey on energy, water, waste and transport, composting workshop, ecar charge points, buy/sell/swap, buy local campaign, rainwater harvesting, monitoring of amounts at the recycling centre, LED bulbs on public lighting, and discouraging pamphlets. The schools are actively involved in the Green Flag programme and congratulations to students and teachers of St. John's NS for achieving a 7th Green Flag. They are now planning for an 8th Green Flag on the Marine Environment. The work of the Kenmare Cycling Club is noted. All these activities are most appropriate for this criterion so well done.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Your campaign to save the market has been successful and you propose that it be repositioned, and the stall holders be responsible for managing litter in and around their stall. Good luck with that venture. Well done on the work to improve the town park railings, signage and footpaths and tidying up the bring bank at Creamery car park. That is an ever-ending task. You are also cleaning, and painting street furniture and several other projects listed in your application. You organise clean-up campaigns and have assistance from the Green School, organisers and you segregate the collected material. Well done on all this work. Kenmare was looking splendid on the day we visited.

### **Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:**

The Lodges is a nice estate with a curved entrance road. The front gardens are small and because of car parking needs, there is little scope for landscape treatment. The open spaces are good and have established trees. We suggest that some of the grassed area be left unmown to support wildlife, especially pollinators. Neidin View estate has fine houses with a combination of stone and plaster render. They are open plan with small front gardens although this is enough for planting hedges which some have done. We greatly admired the established hedge of Cupressocyparis leylandii planted against a screen wall (we assume). It is the best maintained hedge of this type we have seen. Well done. Most private houses and gardens are well-maintained, an example being Hawthorn House (B&B).

### **Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:**

The approach to the town from over the bridge is a pleasant one and is enhanced further by the Viking Ship feature. Other approaches were appropriately done. Your focus has been on proposed footpath and replacement where necessary which is all important. You are also conscious of the impact of utility boxes and how it is best to reduce their visibility. Well done on getting new signs for the back streets, they look very well. Attention to planting along

the approaches is also in your brief, well done. The containers with Lavender on the N70 approach across from Willowfield Garden Centre to prevent large vehicles from long term parking must be a temporary solution. You need to agree a long-term plan for this area with the Council, because the use of plant containers for traffic management is not recommended.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

We enjoyed our visit to Kenmare and to see the continued improvements you have made in this beautiful town which has achieved 19 gold medals. Congratulations to the entire community and to Kerry Council for a successful partnership.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

It is a pleasure for this adjudicator to do the 2nd round adjudication on behalf of Kenmare Tidy Towns. The 1st round adjudicator dealt with the extensive entry form. It is a substantial document with pages not numbered. With it is a 2nd folder with your 3-year plan 2019-2022, which is a 4-year plan. That folder also contained some brochures and photos. Two similar maps were also enclosed. This adjudicator has nothing to add to the points already made by the 1st adjudicator. The approach that this adjudicator will take is to try to look at Kenmare through the eyes of a tourist.

Starting early on a Thursday in the Town Park one noticed two types of seat – an old wooden plank with splits in the wood giving rise to splinters and modern seats. The old ones are long past their use by date. Your Tidy Towns plaque was seen on display in the park and admired “Kenmare National Award 2000, Tidy Towns”. It should be on display where all can see it.

Quills Corner shop stands out. It is very well painted and a role model for other properties in the commercial centre of Kenmare. One cannot make a stronger visual statement. This adjudicator walked around Kenmare but could see the traffic starting to grind to a halt at the junction between Bell Height, Shelbourne Street and Henry Street. A man in a smart uniform was doing his best to keep traffic moving. Traffic lights at the end of Henry Street were not helping.

You successfully camouflaged a 3-storey house on Bell Height. Well done to all involved. Cromwell's Bridge and the hillock were visited. A large blue waterproof bag had vegetation in it for some time. It should be removed. It appears in a colour photo used as an information board for Cromwell's Bridge. On the hillock another display board, commissioned by KTT, is hand drawn and painted to show species list. It is delightful and informative, and its author is Laura Haynes, Pobalscoil Inbhear Scéine. Well done Laura and KTT.

Existing onto Market Street one sees it is a residential area with terraced houses over 100 years old and in remarkable condition. Each side of the street has a different architectural style. The stone circle was visited. It is well presented. Pound Lane, Davitt's Place and Shrubbery Avenue have excellent murals. Davitt's Place has interesting gardens well worth a visit. Our Lady's Well was entered through freshly painted blue gates, along a well swept path and exited at the Grotto beside Finnegans Funeral Home. The Grotto was also freshly painted.

The Creamery Car Park has a bring centre which is clean and has large tubs of lavender being appreciated by lots of bees. Neidin View is a private estate with well-presented houses and good landscaping. Given enough time one can experience several distinctly different types of woodland and wetland in Reenagross Park. It is a popular place for those Kenmare residents who want to exercise. There are information boards that are both informative and illustrated. The pier and the peninsula were visited. The camper vans had departed. No litter was left behind. There were surprisingly few cars. The pier was nicely painted picnic tables and seats, each in a different colour. None was in use.

Lots of boats were tied up including a number of ribs set up for trips around the bay but there were no customers. A very quiet afternoon in lovely weather. On the pier wall is an enlarged map showing the large tract of land sold by NAMA to the local authority. A gate that was intended to keep people off the peninsula has a gap. This adjudicator took advantage of it. Time did not allow a long walk to the end of the peninsula. Instead time was spent evaluating and photographing the Kenmare Rowing and Boat Club. It seems abandoned. As the second-round adjudicator I should like to thank you for your patience and to confirm that I uphold the decisions of the 1st round adjudicator. You will advance in this competition.