

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## **Adjudication Report**

Centre: **Dingle** Ref: **334**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **246**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **25/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>246</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Dingle Tidy Towns Committee is welcome to the 2008 competition. Many thanks for your clearly completed application form, and map which were both very helpful on the day. Your 3 Year Plan made for interesting reading and seems practical, as it works on the basis of being in keeping with the traditions of the town. It was clearly set out showing how you are progressing in this present year, as you are currently in the middle of your timeframe of the plan. You would appear to have quite a small committee given the size and busy nature of the town. You appear to have a good relationship with Kerry County Council, Udaras na Gaeltachta and the local business chamber. You mention a twice yearly visit to the schools – could this link become a stronger and more frequent one?

### **The Built Environment:**

The first impression one gets of the town is that its very fresh but in fact the standard of properties is a little inconsistent, some were very fresh, such as the Kerry Woollen Mills, and the Charthouse on the Quays, Murphy's and the Tourist Office. Others were not in as good condition such as the Bank of Ireland, the lavatories on the Quays and the Ice Plant. Dano's Restaurant should repaint their signage. We were sorry to see the Dingle Craft Village so empty - it was in good condition despite this and tubs filled with flowers lead up from the main Road. Do make sure that you do not remove the render from traditional vernacular buildings, The Heritage Council is keen that traditional vernacular buildings retain their render as this is correct from a conservation point of view. Try to resist the temptation to remove it to reveal the stonework below. The Courthouse looked well with fresh benches outside. Both churches looked well, also. The creeper-clad Waterside was admired. Brian de Staic's is a very modern building which looked well. James Long is a nice traditional shopfront whose signage could be repainted before next year. The adjudicator was delighted to see that there were still many original traditional shopfronts which is most unusual in this day and age - their retention is commendable. Many of the shops also retained their traditional sash windows and indeed the

new Dingle Bay Hotel had used sash windows in fact, which was marvellous to see. We were pleased to hear of your ongoing work with Kerry County Council in relation to derelict sites and new planning applications. It's good to hear of your commitment to the Irish language.

### **Landscaping:**

The town park area at the moment looks quite neglected particularly at its entrance area. The attractive landscaping at a B&B beside the Kerry Group on the Connor Pass Road was greatly admired. The Grotto on the Mall was very fresh and the one at St. Mary's Church looked quite magnificent. Some murals needed repainting such as that to Cois Farraige and the fish mural to the derelict building on Bridge Street. The attractive planting by the Tourist Office was greatly admired and looked quite magnificent and the attractive sculpture of the anchor at the Quayside was greatly admired. We were pleased to hear of the ongoing maintenance of landscaped areas. We look forward to future upgrading of the graveyard and Town Park areas.

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

You would appear to have a number of wildlife trails in place including the marina, fungi and sli na slainte walks. We look forward to seeing the fruits of your works in the riverside area once building work is complete.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was a problem on the day – some was evident to the laneway of the shops off Main Street beside Boyle Sports. More was evident to the riverside/mall area, Green Street and the town park. Some was left by the car park on the Quays and along approach roads, particularly the Connor Pass Road. Daily collections are very important given the busy nature of the town, and we were pleased to read of these. The local area clean ups seem like a good idea. We were sorry to hear of problem areas, given the number of visitors and late night celebrations and can only suggest that further vigilance and more regular clean ups are the key. Perhaps you can consult the County Council in regard to this? This adjudicator has been impressed in the past by the appearance of Westport in County Mayo, which also has a high number of visitors. Litter pickers are out in force first thing every morning in order to tidy the town from the activities of the night before. Some of the litter bins were in bad condition and would benefit from a fresh coat of paint.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

We were pleased to hear that the bottle banks are being well used by local businesses and residents alike, and that larger shops are involved in waste minimisation. We join you in hopes for the new recycling area being of help in regard to this category of the competition. The recycling of litter by Kerry County Council sounds interesting and we were pleased to hear of school visits.

### **Tidiness:**

There are a few derelict properties on the Connor Pass Road which looked unfortunate. Do try to screen the Kerry Co-Op buildings in some way either by planting trees or perhaps by erecting a fence and growing a creeper up it. A neglected building by the bridge created a bad impression and weeds were evident to the ring road that leads from the top of the town back down to the bridge. We were pleased to hear of plans for resurfacing of roads by the County Council. We were also pleased to hear of the new car park and plans for an improvement in traffic management in the offing which will, hopefully, be of some benefit to you in your work.

### **Residential Areas:**

There are many holiday homes in the vicinity of the town and they generally really looked well cared for. The many B&B's and Hotels contribute well to this category of the competition – an attractive garden was greatly admired at Greenmount House and the Captain's House. Marina Lodge was very fresh. The grass roof to Tig Furlong on the Connor Pass Road was greatly admired. The ecclesiastical style house on the Mall looked well as did the stone cottages opposite the grotto in this location also. Fairfield Close – the new houses at the top of the town were admired – some rendered finish and some finished in stone. We were pleased to hear of your ongoing interest in new development in order to ensure that it is in keeping with the character of the town and the beauty of its surroundings. Ongoing maintenance is important and we are pleased that you are involved in this work. New stone walling at Milltown Bridge roundabout is commendable.

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

The new road along the rear of the town leading to the bridge sported new footpaths and lighting but was rather rough in surface and sported some weeds. The Connor Pass Road was fine and attractive wild ferns, foxgloves and fuchsia were noted in the hedgerows. The car park at the bottom of the Connor Pass Road looked rather weedy. The upturned Currach at the bus stop on the Quayside was admired. The fine stone walls and landscaped gardens on the Ventry Road to B&B's such as Heaton's and Castlewood contribute

strongly to the visual presentation of this approach road. Finger post signs on Main Street to the terrace of shops beside Boyle Sports looked quite rusty. We were pleased to hear of the re-surfacing of Quay Road and that you continue ongoing dialogue with Kerry County Council regarding the maintenance of approach roads. Hopefully ongoing building works on approach roads will be complete in the not-too-distant future.

**General Impression:**

It is always a pleasure to visit Dingle which is a real working town despite the high levels of visitors and tourists.