

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killarney** Ref: **340**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **310**  
Category: **F** Date(s): **07/07/2012**  
**31/07/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	48	47
The Built Environment	50	38	38
Landscaping	50	44	45
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	34	34
Litter Control	50	36	35
Tidiness	30	20	20
Waste Minimisation	20	14	14
Residential Areas	40	31	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36	37
General Impression	10	9	9
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>310</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

A very big welcome to Killarney, the Tidiest Town in Ireland and heartfelt congratulations on your momentous win in 2011! Your comprehensive application included maps, photos and backup documentation. You have a strong core committee of 20 members and the support of a large number of volunteers. To achieve what you have done, it is vital to have good working relationships such as you have with Killarney Town Council, Kerry Co Co, and National Parks & Wildlife Service. You also have forged very good links with the wide range of businesses, voluntary clubs and organisations within your town. The Meitheal report is impressive – an indication of the huge effort all sectors are putting in to Killarney town for great social and economic benefit.

Well done on using local newspapers, local radio, local newsletter, website and more recently, facebook. It is great that you have two volunteers to take on the PR side of things – awareness raising is hugely important. Well done on setting up a facebook page and we hope you succeed in setting up your website soon.

Well done on your strong working relationship with the schools and Environmental Awareness Officer. Do you have a Schools Liaison Officer on your committee?

Well done on your participation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade this year – another great way to raise awareness of your activities.

You are to be commended for local competitions such as your 'Killarney Looking Good' initiative.

You might submit a copy of your 3-year work plan next time.

### The Built Environment:

This adjudicator is familiar with the lakes and wonderful natural amenities of Killarney but hadn't previously noted the wealth of architectural heritage that you are so lucky to have. Your guided walking tour was most

helpful in discovering these treasures. The Friary and grounds are most impressive as are the cluster of fine stone buildings – Presentation Convent, Bishop's Palace, St. Brendan's School, Kerry Parents and Friends Association, all of which are immaculately landscaped and maintained. The vast cathedral looks impressive on its beautifully maintained grounds. Please give the railings some attention soon.

The newly revamped Bank of Ireland was noted. Some premises that caught the eye due to their good presentation included Scott's Hotel, AIB, Killarney Bookshop, J O Leary's, the Laurels and Quills. It is lovely to see traditional shop fronts and original windows preserved or reinstated.

The Tourist Office was bright and welcoming and Killarney Community College was neatly presented. The new playground is in the most amazing setting in the National Park – surrounded by trees and enhanced with lovely pink rose beds. Only 1 piece of litter was noticed here. The Malton Hotel and quaint train station nearby are attractive buildings in themselves and have been enhanced with landscaping. The new 'Deer Stags' sculpture is blending in well and will look even better when the courthouse has been fully refurbished. The modern stone building at the jarvey base (Kenmare Place) blends in well with the more mature surrounds and was very neat when we visited. The charming Deenagh Lodge was admired as was the 'West End House' restaurant. The Town Hall and church across the way were neatly presented as were the bus station/retail outlet. You are to be commended for your ongoing promotion of the Irish language.

### **Landscaping:**

It was great to see that so many of the hotels and other businesses have made good efforts to enhance their properties with suitable landscaping. This was particularly noticed on the busy Muckcross Rd. The colourful entranceway to the Killarney Park Hotel was admired. The elevated position of the Friary makes its lovely grounds all the more noticeable. The Cultural Centre has been enhanced with colourful flowerbeds. A lovely flowerbed was observed at the monument near Kenmare Place – the seat here needs treatment. The fern garden and mural on the leafy Mission Rd was admired. The Mission Memorial sculpture was admired. Splendid landscaping was observed at the corner Muckcross Rd/Woodlawn Rd. Well done for considering local wildlife when deciding your planting schemes (native trees, wild flowers etc). It is also welcoming to see that you are planting for year round colour/interest.

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

You are fortunate to have the wonderful amenities of Killarney National Park on your doorstep. The riverside walk is a delight and this has now been further enhanced by the impressive new cycle-way to Fossa (well surfaced and fully accessible) with its flora and fauna signs. The deer and wildlife trail at Knockreer estate is a welcome addition. Well done for your efforts to plant natives trees and flowers where possible. You are lucky to have the expertise of the Killarney N.P. Education Centre on your doorstep. Well done on your efforts to raise awareness of wildlife among your residents. You are lucky to have voluntary groups with interest in specific wildlife areas – I hope you link in to their events. Your efforts to use wildlife-friendly plants are welcomed, also your work to encourage local garden centres in this regard.

### **Litter Control:**

There was the odd piece of litter here and there but considering your size and through-traffic, the place was looking very well. The busy bring centre at the Glebe and Mission Rd car parks were litter free so well done to all who use it. The receptacles at the latter could do with a wash to improve the overall appearance here. Your successful 'adopt a road' campaign is commendable and well done on the high levels of litter recycling. Your efforts to tackle the issue of chewing gum litter are admirable. Well done to the jarveys for the successful horse litter scheme. Your ongoing initiatives such as 'Killarney Looking Good', Best Kept School etc are all working to good effect. Well done to all the volunteers who get out and about regularly to keep Killarney litter-free. Your ongoing media campaign and Team Killarney initiative appears to be having good impact.

### **Tidiness:**

Killarney has made marked progress in this category in recent years and the standard and quantity of signage is much improved. Well done on making Killarney a 'poster-free' town.

There were a few weeds along the kerb on New Road, due to the poor nature of the road surface. Generally weed control throughout the town was very good. Can the rusting white gate along the lovely Bishop's walk be painted? One hanging-basket holder on Beech Rd and one near the Deenagh Lodge park entrance should be removed if not being used. The sign outside the park gate near Deenagh Lodge is looking a bit faded.

The Cineplex is neatly presented – however it would be improved if the front railings and street bollards were painted. The 'Radio Kerry' sign on the Muckcross Rd needs straightening and there is a disused pole at the junction Muckcross Rd/Woodlawn Rd. Weed control is needed in places along Woodlawn Ave. A disused B&B sign at the entrance to Demesne Estate should be removed. The Top Service Station could be encouraged to enhance its front area – perhaps paint the front wall and do some appropriate landscaping. Two disused poles were noted at the Glebe car park. Your comments regarding the unsightly Mineral Water Factory are noted.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Well done to all the green flag schools and for working with them to relay the waste minimisation message. Your ongoing efforts to promote local recycling facilities are noted, as is your segregation of clean-up litter for recycling. Congratulations to all the local businesses who have achieved Green Fáilte Awards due to their efforts to reduce waste and other resources. We look forward to hearing more about those businesses involved in the Green Hospitality scheme. Well done to the committee for practising what you preach and trying to keep your own waste to a minimum! Your efforts to promote the 'Reuse' ethos such as promoting local charity shops is noted as is your ongoing media campaign to get people to be more environmentally friendly. We look forward to hearing about your further progress next time.

### **Residential Areas:**

In general housing estates were neatly presented and most were litter free so well done to all involved. Further landscaping would benefit in a few places. There are some fine 3-storey properties on New St and Greenlawn is a charming lane way of colourful town houses. The design of the Monastery Gardens houses was admired. It was lovely to see the old walls retained as part of the house boundaries on the Ross Road. Cahernane Meadows was neatly presented with some landscaping. The sign at Tower Lodge B&B needs upgrading. Grass was high around the edges of Scrahan Place, giving a somewhat untidy appearance. Park Drive was neatly presented with good landscaping.

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

Well done on recent works carried out to the Tralee Approach Road. The Main street is pedestrian-friendly and has well-maintained street furniture. You have started to appreciate and look after your back lanes, which are an intrinsic part of the town's character. It was good to see name signs on all of them. Most were looking well – there was a little litter at the entrance to Chapel Place. The relatively new Scott's St was busy but clean. Finger posting to various points of interest was excellent. Mission Road is particularly impressive and well-maintained but not over-manicured as it sits side by side on of our best national parks in the country. The tree-lined East Avenue was also admired. Good maps and signage for your many visitors are found at strategic points throughout the town. You have good car parking facilities and the traffic seemed to be moving freely when we were there. Glebe Car Park was noted for its excellent bring centre, good bike parking and attractive landscaping. The bridge/railings on the Muckcross Rd were in good order and enhanced with hanging baskets. The new pedestrian crossings are a welcome addition.

### **General Impression:**

The way you have approached the Tidy Towns competition in a planned, structured and co-ordinated manner is very impressive. Your fitting motto 'Ní neart cur le chéile' speaks volumes as does your 'Team Killarney' approach. It really is a team effort in Killarney. What is more extraordinary is that you haven't taken a step back since your big win but continue to plough ahead with implementation of new initiatives for the emergence of a more sustainable Killarney. Your professional and positive attitude in dealing with all challenges is commendable. Congratulations again and a big bualadh bos for all involved.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

On visiting Killarney the well maintained approach roads, superb landscaping and beautiful buildings, make the town a pleasure to visit. One must embark on a tour around the town by jaunting car to fully appreciate the many exquisite architectural buildings that form this streetscape. The many Hotels, railway station, business and residences that make up this unique streetscape are to be admired and to be commended. One has to mention the magnificent Cathedral and Friary buildings which certainly deserve a visit and the adjudicator was delighted to see such superb architectural buildings been maintained. Roundabouts were landscaped to a high standard, particularly noted was your use of planters at the edge of roundabouts and not at the base of trees. The many hanging baskets, planters and various areas of colourful landscaping add a certain charm to the town, particularly noted was the entrance to Muckcross Road. The trees in Main Street had been enhanced by decorations for the upcoming Kearney's summer festival. Christy's was also admired with superb floral presentations. The car park at Moynihans crescent was neat and tidy as was the bring bank, however the bring bank could use a clean. The landscaped park overlooking the car park with its seasonal planting was also admired. You are to be commended for your use of all year planting at locations throughout the town. The town was very busy on the day of adjudicating and your use of directional and information signs were

useful. Some directional signs on Lewis road had some growth encroaching on them and some poles supporting signage were in need of painting. Litter control was very good considering the amount of people in the town. On the day of adjudication workers were busy maintaining Main Street. The town had a vibrant atmosphere on the day of adjudicating, however busy it extruded an air of tidiness and order. Your committee volunteers and all involved are commended on your work to date.