

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **CURRANS**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	25
The Built Environment	40	25	23
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	26	27
Tidiness	20	10	9
Residential Areas	30	17	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	172	169

Currans, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator has noted that just 12 people are involved in the local Tidy Towns programme. It is essential that you get more support for your good efforts. Progress in the competition will be dependent on everyone working towards the same ends. With this in mind you should prepare a "3 /5 Year rolling Tidy Towns Work Programme". This programme should have the support of the community, local group, the County Council and other agencies. It would therefore guide you Tidy Towns actions for the next three to five years. The Work Programme should detail the Tidy Towns objectives to be achieved by your committee in the years ahead. The preparation of such a Plan which is updated annually is now an important aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition. The new Tidy Towns Handbook, which has been issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government to all Tidy Towns Committees, is a highly useful document which will be a great help both to established Tidy Towns Committees and to all new entrants. It is divided into a series of seven Action Sheets which together cover all aspects of the Competition. It might be most useful for a committee to run a series of seminar evenings based on the contents of this Tidy Towns Handbook.

The idea of the Litter Awareness Week in which you are involved is excellent.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

You have done very good work on the derelict house and at the time of adjudication the old shed had just been demolished. You should consider landscaping this area. The lime trees project under the Village Renewal Scheme is also noted. The Church boundary is in need of painting and do keep the wild roses which are trailing over the top of this wall should be retained. The steelwork at the entrances to the Church car park should be painted matt black. The murals by the Village Inn are excellent and reflect so strongly the life of this area. The nearby Village Inn and the Hall are very well presented, neat and tidy. At the old National School building the broken glass should be replaced. Have you considered providing a weather-proof information plaque for the stone railway bridge, giving the history of the line?

LANDSCAPING

The area with the young trees on the way to the stone Railway Bridge is maturing well. However the timber fencing should be painted matt black. Keep the narrow verge on each side cut as you have done, and allow wildlife to use the longer grass area between that verge and the fence. The new shrubs in the Church grounds look well.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Do try to develop further amenities which will encourage wildlife to your area. Your first step however is to identify the species which inhabit any such areas. Wildlife can be encouraged by the planting of native berry

producing trees and shrubs. The provision of bird and bat roosts and nesting sites in any old buildings might also be considered by your Committee. Make sure that any wildlife areas to which the public have access are properly signposted. Remember the needs of people with disabilities. The development of these amenity walks and nature trails will add greatly to your area in the years ahead. Has your Committee considered the erection of some information plaques about the wildlife to be seen in the area?

LITTER CONTROL

Some bad litter was noted on the Castleisland approach road by the village name sign. Elsewhere in the village litter control was once again good.

TIDINESS

Timber fencing on the Farranfore road is in need of painting. Do watch out for weeds and long grass in the wrong place, which can detract from the overall presentation of your village.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Some road boundary walls are in need of painting. On the Farranfore and Castleisland roads some very attractive mature private gardens were noted. It is obvious that residents are taking a lot of pride in their village and in the way that they present their own properties.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The bilingual signs plan is noted and warmly welcomed. The graveyard clean-up is a good improvement. Some very tight cutting has taken place on some approach roads, and this is a problem for wildlife. At hedge cutting time do take into account the needs of wildlife in terms of nesting and feeding, and avoid hedge cutting at nesting time.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Your work in Currans is bringing results and this village can do well in the Competition in time. Of critical importance is the development of your Tidy Towns Plan mentioned earlier in this Report. Good luck for the future!