

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **CURROW**  
County : **KERRY**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	20
Litter Control	40	30	29
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>198</b>

## **Currow, County Kerry**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The adjudicator notes that you are involving the local school in your annual Spring Clean and this is a very good approach. 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 groups, the County Council and other agencies. It would therefore guide your 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, especially for new entrants, for a committee to run a series of seminar evenings based on the contents of this Tidy Towns Handbook.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Your plans for the bilingual signs are warmly welcomed. At the bridge over the river the walls here should be painted following necessary small repairs. The Centre property here looks exceptionally well and the colour choice works very well. However across the road the Kerry Farm Shop building needs urgent painting and work on the surrounds. Likewise the paint work on the Community Centre needs to be touched up. The built environment in your village is what contributes in a significant way to the overall character of your place. This includes the buildings, public areas, streets, side lanes and car parks. Any potential threat to any one of these threatens in a serious way the overall character of your town. Therefore the standard of even the smallest improvements in your town must be in keeping with the overall character of the area. Some of the threats could include the use of PVC windows instead of timber ones especially in historic buildings, the use of varnished timber instead of paintwork and the removal of traditional plaster on originally plastered stone buildings.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The landscaping at the Church looked well again this year. The use of hanging baskets and flower tubs in carefully selected places will add an interesting splash of colour your village. However do make sure that this is not overdone. You should be using hanging baskets and tubs to help bring out the character of your town. There is potential for an attractive landscaped area at the river bridge on one side or the other. In this way you should try to integrate the river into the life of your village. This would be most important for wildlife also.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Your river area is potentially important for wildlife. 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 access 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 ? The presentation of the wildlife pond was somewhat disappointing. Access was difficult and there is much excess grass and weed growth which needs some attention. A plaque here about the wildlife which uses the pond would be a good addition.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Litter control on the day of adjudication was quite good and the adjudicator has noted that you use a maintenance person on a weekly basis to attend to this aspect of your village.

## **TIDINESS**

Your weed control measures for roadside edges is noted by the adjudicator and this appears to be working. The concrete wall beside the old hall still looks rather drab though the creeper is coming on well. The adjudicator is of the view that this area needs a bit of colour. There is also along high concrete wall to the site of the Church on the Scartaglen approach road which might be painted black, or planting introduced. A lot of long grass and weed growth was noted at the concrete post and rail fencing beside Parkmore Estate.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Parkmore Estate is being well maintained. There are some excellently maintained houses and gardens in Currow which add much to the character of the village. On both the Farranfore and Castleisland approach roads some beautiful gardens were noted with fine colourful planting.

## **ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS**

Generally all your approach roads were well presented. It was good to see that banks had not been cut too low, and thus cover is provided for wildlife. Signs will need to be freshened up from time to time.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Once again Currow looked well on a rather dull July adjudication day. It is obviously that this is a community that works well together and you are achieving very good results from all your dedicated effort. Well done to you all!