

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **FOSSA**  
County : **KERRY**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 05-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	29
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	23	24
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	24
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>181</b>

## **Fossa, County Kerry**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The adjudicator notes that just 15 people are handling the Tidy Towns work programme for the Fossa community. It is essential that you get further support for your important work. 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 for your committee to run a series of seminar evenings based on the contents of this Tidy Towns Handbook. The dialogue which you have developed with builders and the Planning Authority is most important. The Fossa Way Cycle Lane is a great initiative and one which will be welcomed by all cyclists.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The new grounds for Fossa GAA Club were examined, and it is hoped that appropriate landscaping will be continued here. At the road junction for Milltown there is a total of 12 fingerposts of 6 different kinds. Can you try to rationalise these. There is a similar situation at the Gap of Dunloe junction which has a number of finger posts. Such situations are very confusing for the visiting motorist. As usual the Hotel Europe and grounds looked very well as did the School. Your work here is noted. Can a new use be found for the old Church in co-operation with the Church authorities. Try to see if you can get permission to white-wash external walls, windows could be boarded up and painted matt black. In this way the original derelict church can become a feature of your community. The railings at the old church are in need of repair and painting.

### **LANDSCAPING**

Again the Church landscaping is being well maintained. Can you consider a small landscaping project along the base of the stone wall on the Killarney approach as you come up to the Milltown junction. This littered area has good landscaping potential. If you decide to take this project on, please consider the needs of wildlife in terms of habitat and feeding. This will influence the types of trees and shrubs that should be used.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The many trees in the Fossa area make excellent habitats for wildlife. 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 ?

## **LITTER CONTROL**

There was a major litter problem on adjudication day at the base of the stone wall near the Milltown road junction. Some of the litter appears to have been there for some time. Along the cycle lane further out towards Killorglin litter was also noted. This detracts a lot from an otherwise pleasant area.

## **TIDINESS**

Grass and weed growth at the base of stone walls and property boundary walls is a significant problem for Fossa. It is not enough to use weed killer to remove this grass growth, but the old roots must also be taken out. The long concrete post and rail fence would look a lot better if it was painted matt black or white, and the necessary repairs carried out. The rusty frame of the old sign between the old church and Forest Lake cottages should be removed.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Many of the private houses along this road were excellently presented and fine gardens are being maintained. However there are some properties which require additional attention to bring them up to the overall standard in Fossa. As mentioned above bad grass and weed growth at the base of some road boundary walls was noted.

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

The main roads here are the Killarney - Killorglin road and the Milltown road. On the Killorglin side the bank has been cut very tightly and the grass not raked or very badly raked. When cutting your banks please keep in mind the needs of wildlife. It is not necessary to cut the banks right down to the sod. Again on the Killorglin side the verge on the left by the 30 MPH sign has not been trimmed.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The main road here carries very high traffic volumes and this makes your work all the more difficult. However try and get further helpers involved and get your Tidy Towns Plan up and running for next year. Good luck with your work.