

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **LIOS POIL**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 07-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	23	23
The Built Environment	40	23	23
Landscaping	40	21	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	21	21
Tidiness	20	12	12
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	18	19
General Impression	10	4	5
TOTAL MARK	300	154	156

Lios Poil, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator has noted the strong community co-operation which you receive on your Tidy Towns campaign. It is important that Lios Poil is accepted for the Village Renewal Scheme as this will allow your plans to advance much more quickly. 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 BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church floodlighting project is an interesting one which highlights the main feature of the village. The Creamery is in need of re-painting. The Petrol Station and the nearby shop looked well as did the other business premises in Lios Poil. An abandoned building below the road at the river bridge was noted. Try to get permission from the property owner to white-wash external walls, windows could be boarded up and painted matt black. In this way the original derelict property can become a feature of your village. The old Railway Bridge is a most important part of the history of this area and the Dingle Peninsula in general. The adjudicator could not find a plaque about this bit of Railway history - have you considered having one erected in the village ?

LANDSCAPING

Your plans for additional shrubs on the green are noted. However the green area needs a lot of work. Perhaps a few suitable trees here would help, as it is a large area which needs landscaping to scale. The area around the telephone boxes here also needs attention as there is a lot of weed growth in the gravel area , and the kerbs are partially covered by grass and weeds. The low wall in front of the Grotto also needs attention here as it is being obscured by long grass and weed growth.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your river area is potentially attractive and important also for wildlife. However on the day of adjudication litter was noted in this river. 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 signpost. Remember the access needs of people with disabilities. The development of these amenity walks and nature trails will add greatly to you 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

Apart from litter noted in the river, litter control on the day of adjudication in July was quite good.

TIDINESS

Apparently abandoned cars were noted near the garage on the Annascaul approach. Weed growth at the base of walls is a problem, and a very untidy area near the Memorial Cross was noted. This could be an attractive landscaped area. There is extensive weed and grass growth at the road bridge which creates a poor impression.

RESIDENTIAL AREA

The few residential premises in the village were reasonably presented, and some very nicely painted buildings were noted

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

The approach roads on both sides need a lot of attention. When dealing with banks and verges to keep in mind the needs of wildlife and try to avoid cutting during nesting time. It is recommended that wide verges should not be cut back to the wall or fence. A narrow roadside strip should be cut on a regular basis. The area between that strip and the wall will be most important in terms of the needs of wildlife.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Much work is required in Lios Poil to make progress in the Competition. However the Tidy Towns Action Plan mentioned at the beginning of this report will be of major help to you. Also the Tidy Towns Handbook will be invaluable. Good luck with your work!