

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **WATERVILLE**  
County : **KERRY**  
Category : **B**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 09-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	27	26
Landscaping	40	26	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	13
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	22	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	20
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>174</b>

## Waterville, County Kerry

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

Thank you for the photographs which you included with your Entry Form documentation. However the up-dated Three Year Plan was not received. 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.

Your difficulties in regard to the proposed new Sewerage Scheme are noted and this scheme appears to be holding up some of your plans.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

At the Church of Ireland Church the grass should be removed from internal roads and the gates replaced as soon as possible. The car park at the beach near the Golf Club is a welcome facility. However some finishing off works are required along the low bank on the sea side. At the Smugglers Inn the post and rail fencing needs to be re-painted. On the back road derelict property 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 information sign for the old Cable Station is most interesting. However some property in the old Cable Station area is in urgent need of painting. At the time of adjudication work appeared to be starting on the restoration of the old Cable Station Office building. The Community Centre was well presented. On the road to Lough Currane some derelict property was again noted. Some properties on this road also need painting. The Fisherman's Bar was very well presented. There are still a number of projecting shop signs which are not all appropriate. These detract from the overall visual impression. Can you consider starting a campaign to replace some of these signs with traditional hand lettered flush mounted signs which will be much more appropriate, and which will enhance your street-scape. An Tigin was excellently presented and uses a bright colour which is in keeping with the character of Waterville.

### **LANDSCAPING**

The landscaping of the very large area on the sea side of the Main Street is excellently presented. This is a large grass area to maintain and keep up the very high standard which you have set for yourself. There are a number of smaller areas of incidental landscaping which look well. For example the approach from Caherdaniel near the road bridge looks well.

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

Your nesting boxes project is welcomed. The beach area looked clean and tidy on adjudication day - tide was in. The Tennis Courts beside the Community Centre seemed to be well used and are being well maintained. The area where the game angling boats are moored is an attractive area. However the timber fencing here should be painted matt black. There is some weed growth here also which needs your on-going attention. Your river area is very attractive and important also 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**

Generally litter control was quite good. However some litter was noted at the Car Park by the beach near the Golf Club, on the back road and near the Grotto at the top of the town.

## **TIDINESS**

An untidy open space beside the Huntsman was noted. This contained beer barrels, refuse containers, road chips and a road roller. The Car Park to the side of the Church on the back road also contained piles of sand / gravel, kerb stones and other materials. On the Lough Currane road a number of small untidy areas were noted with long grass and rampant weed growth. Some of the roads in the Cable Station have serious grass growth. Generally a lot of the open space that is not built on here is overgrown and creates a poor impression. However this is an on-going problem in this area. There is a small grass area in front of the Bay View Hotel which is in need of landscaping. Litter was noted here also.

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

On the back road boundary walls were in need of attention. This applies to a number of other residential areas also. The Estate on the back road looked really well with excellent grassed areas. One or two houses need painting here, and some boundary walls need attention. Some gable walls in the Cable Station need urgent painting.

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

With the exception of the back road, approach roads were well presented, especially the approach road from the Caherdaniel side. When you are cutting banks and verges do not cut them too tightly and keep the needs of wildlife very much in mind. Please do not cut at nesting time.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

The overall presentation of Waterville has improved in a most significant way in the last few years and this is reflected in your increasing marks in the Competition. Well done to everyone involved in this major effort!