

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **FARRANFORE**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 21-06-2000

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2000	Mark Awarded 1999
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	25	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	22	22
Tidiness	20	10	9
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	19
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	166	161

Farranfore, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

The adjudicator last year commented on your 3-year plan. As time goes by this may need to be updated depending on progress. There is a considerable amount of work and challenges to overcome in Farranfore. Traffic is certainly one of the most noticeable hazards. The committee of 15 is a very fine number and should help to progress plans well. Persistent work will pay off.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There are many fine buildings in Farranfore comprising commercial and private dwellings. The railway station is an impressive building although some treatment of the immediate surrounds would be helpful. The carpark appears to be recently resurfaced. The factory is well off the road and appears well screened. The shopping areas have developed separately. Each has its own car parking which keeps the road more free but does create problems for people emerging from these car parks. The post office carpark and shopping area is well presented, as is the Top Shop area. The need for footpaths is very urgent especially going from the post office to Ulicks. The Garda station is very well presented, as is Dr. Daly's house opposite. No doubt the committee is doing its best with the difficult sites such as that opposite Sheehans petrol pumps and the disused central car sales premises. Some attention to signage is needed. With such traffic, cleaning of signs is needed especially on the Killarney side. The road sign is also a little overgrown by foliage.

LANDSCAPING

Tree planting is a main priority. Street trees could make a substantial difference. By identifying locations for planting this could be achieved over a few years to great benefit. In the Park View estate it is surprising to see the lack of trees. There are ample opportunities there and appear to be only 3 or 4 planted on the open spaces. There is a total absence of trees in the school grounds. This is a pity because tree planting in such situations not only creates a nicer atmosphere but gives encouragement and a form of education to the children. The approach is well treated with trees and the river bridge is attractive. Gardens contribute greatly to the landscape of a town or village and there are many fine gardens in Farranfore worthy of credit for their owners. The tree planting behind and surrounding the Post office carpark is very good and shows how such planting can transform such a site. Containers on the railway station are a good idea but they need more body to give a really good display. The number of containers at the Top Shop is a good effort to improve the forecourt. With so

many containers one could consider an alternative of building raised stone faced planters in those positions. The newly grassed verges were noted at the entrance to the Radharc Na Pairce and the work on the main road at the fence is a very good job. The island plantings at Ulicks junction need a little upgrading.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The river area is the obvious choice for the development of wildlife appreciation. It is understood that you have plans in this regard and hopefully they will be developed in time. Disused railway lines are a great idea for wildlife interest and a very successful one has been established at Clonmel.

LITTER CONTROL

The litter control is proceeding well but understandably difficult with such volume of passing traffic which not only can be a source of litter but of dust and road dirt splash for buildings. Some small amounts of litter were noted.

TIDINESS

Many of the measures that tidy towns committees promote are in themselves good approaches to keeping tidiness as a high priority. The derelict sites are not helpful. The railway station has some work in progress and when complete there is good opportunity to develop the carpark and surround to a higher standard. The level crossing signs and organisation seems in need in upgrading.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Individual homes are an important part of the overall appearance of Farranfore and help greatly in the presentation. The housing estate is well cared for. The improvements on the way into the estate have been enhanced by new grass and further improvements are possible.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Care in cutting of hedges and grass verges should always be exercised to allow appreciation of the wild plants (which are frequently taken for granted), and to facilitate nesting birds and the insects they may feed on. Approaches can be attractive neat and clean with a simple formula of well-tended verges, cleanliness and good signposting.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This is a village which has a hard time with the level of passing traffic and the efforts of the committee are commendable in such difficult circumstances. Determination

to improve the situation will bring success.