

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **FIRIES**  
County : **KERRY**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	40	19	18
Landscaping	40	24	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	23
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>161</b>

## **Firies, Co. Kerry**

### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH**

The adjudicator is very concerned to note that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted with the entry documentation. Indeed no additional documentation of any sort was submitted.

Progress in the competition will be dependent on everyone working towards the same ends. With this in mind you must prepare a "3 /5 Year rolling Tidy Towns Work Programme". This programme should have the support of the community, local groups other agencies and the County Council. It would therefore guide you Tidy Towns actions for the next three to five years. The Work Programme will detail the Tidy Towns objectives to be achieved by your committee in the years ahead. The preparation of such a Plan that is updated annually is now an essential aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition.

Do keep in mind that what is required is a simple Plan or document.

The adjudicator also notes that there are just six people on your Committee. Steps must be taken locally to get more support for your important work from the increasing number of people resident in Firies. While there are very significant numbers of new houses being built in the area the lack of a Tidy Towns Plan will make it difficult to improve the local environment in any significant way. The steps therefore are (a) get more support for your Committee and (b) prepare your Tidy Towns Action Plan without delay.

The Department of the Environment and Local Government issued a new Tidy Towns Handbook to all Tidy Towns Committees. This is a highly useful document that 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 that together cover all aspects of the Competition.

### **THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Major building works in Firies are now under way. It is hoped that new buildings will use a strong sense of colour that would add much to Firies. The use of stone at the Post Office is effective and the nearby Pat Sheahan premises has been nicely painted. However there are still some buildings that require early re-painting. The yellow building with blue doors opposite "Rosebank" needs attention as does the area inside the temporary fencing as it is rather untidy with long grass. Good work has been done at the Church Hall and the colour scheme here is effective. The gates however should be painted a matt black colour. Nearby the National School is attractively presented.

## **LANDSCAPING**

Additional tree planting at the School is noted. Below the School the landscaping at the Church has matured well and the grounds are being well maintained.

## **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES**

The wormery project at the School is noted from your Entry Form. Can you try and develop some small landscaped areas around the village with the help of FAS or the Local Authority. These would help to soften the appearance of the village. Your Tidy Towns Plan should reflect the needs of wildlife and you should take some initiatives to meet their needs.

## **LITTER CONTROL**

Despite all the construction work in progress litter control is generally good. However at the front of the Church quantities of litter were noted.

## **TIDINESS**

There is a very untidy area to the rear of the Telephone Box and perhaps there are development plans for this area. The old derelict ballroom on the Killorglin approach adds little to the appearance of Firies on this approach road. Is it possible for the front of the building to be painted, and the windows boarded up and painted as a temporary improvement measure, pending future use of this building?

## **RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Much new bungalow development was noted. On the Farranfore road the new bungalows here would be improved if the front boundary walls with the road were painted in an attractive practical colour. The beginnings of some potentially nice gardens were noted in this area also. New housing should use bright colours where possible. Firies needs colour and the village could become one of the "bright colour villages" of County Kerry.

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

It appears that most approach roads are receiving little consistent attention. Banks need to be trimmed keeping the needs of wildlife in mind. When dealing with banks and verges do keep in mind the needs of wildlife and try and avoid cutting during nesting time. In general hedges should not be cut before July. On the Farranfore approach road the sloping bank on the left-hand side could be an attractive feature of that side of Firies, but the banks opposite are totally uncut. When the present construction phase in Firies is completed road re-surfacing works will be needed as a priority.

## **GENERAL IMPRESSION**

Firies has come a long way in a short time in terms of new housing development. However in terms of environment the lack of an agreed Tidy Towns Action Plan is obvious. Try and

follow the advice given by the adjudicator at the beginning of this report. Please do not get discouraged; with good local support for your Committee much can be achieved in the years ahead.