

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-2001

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2001	Mark Awarded 2000
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	29
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	24	25
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	188	190

Fossa, 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.

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 your 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.

A Tidy Towns Handbook was been issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government to all Tidy Towns Committees. This 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 that 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

It is good to see that the old Church has been refurbished and now has a new use. However the mound of earth inside the gate on the left-hand side should be removed, and the car park weeded. Across the road the new Church and grounds is being excellently maintained. The Golden Nugget premises is excellently presented and has made a good bold colour choice. The school railings are in need of re-painting. Once again the Caravan Parks look extremely well and integrate well with the area. At the Youth Hostel on the Milltown road the grounds look very well. It is very good to see such a beautiful building being used as a Youth Hostel.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping at the entrance to the Hotel Europe is beautiful and adds some colour to that part of Fossa. At the other end of the village at Gap Cross a well maintained grass area was noted at the road junction.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The old mature trees in Fossa are a key feature of the area and are very important from a wildlife point of view. Have you

considered having a simple survey done to find out what wildlife is in your area. Having done that you can then see what you can do to meet their needs, and encourage further wildlife into the Fossa area.

LITTER CONTROL

Quite an amount of litter was noted at the Killarney end of Fossa near the signposts, and this looked very untidy. Otherwise litter control was quite good.

TIDINESS

The groups of signposts at each end of Fossa are untidy and confusing for the motorist. As mentioned in last year's report can you take some action with the Local Authority on this issue. A good start is to have some discussions with them to get their views on what best can be done to improve the situation. The small old building in the grounds of the Europe Hotel needs attention. Try and see if you can get permission from the owners to paint external walls, Windows could be boarded up and painted matt black. In this way the original derelict property can become a feature of Fossa

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

There are quite a number of very well maintained houses in Fossa, some use strong colours and this is to be encouraged. Gardens are being very well maintained and in many cases the quality of landscaping is high.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Weed-killer has been used on the long verge side grass. However the long dead grass has not been removed and now looks very untidy and neglected. The poor condition of the roadside verges at the Killarney end of Fossa was noted. The cycle-way is a welcome development of a few years ago and is needed on this busy roadway. Roadside banks have not been trimmed in some cases. Do remember to take into account the needs of wildlife when banks are being cut – cutting should not take place before July. On the Milltown approach banks also need to be trimmed.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Fossa is a very attractive village with fine trees and landscaping. Do try and take action on the various points raised in this report for next year, and good luck with your work.