

"Caring for our environment"

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

Results

Date of Adjudication : 08-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	26
The Built Environment	40	20	19
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	14
Litter Control	40	24	25
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	167	163

Firies, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Firies is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed submission. The village is undergoing substantial development at the moment and so it is not being seen at its best. It will probably take a few years for Firies to reach its full potential in the aftermath of development. Congratulations on your fundraising activities and, of course, on achieving the co-operation of statutory bodies. Well done on work completed to the twelfth century graveyard in conjunction with Dúchas. Your social activities are to be admired also and, in particular, your welcome party in the Community Hall for new residents together with a booklet on the local community. Thank you for details of your plan.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Hopefully the old creamery and site will be acquired by the County Council for the development of a village square. We wish you well in this respect. We note that the old ballroom development is for sale and look forward to its redevelopment also. Shops and pubs were quite well presented, Ulicks and Pat Sheehans for example. Johnny's Bar does need to be upgraded, the school, the Community Hall, the church and their associated grounds were all very well presented.

LANDSCAPING

Young trees in the lawn around the village green are establishing themselves well. Two small groups of mature pines in the village were noted which are important elements of the village, it is hoped that these will be retained in the face of development. The large green open space at the southern entrance to the village to the roadside of the new housing development was overgrown, hopefully this too will be incorporated into your landscaping programme.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is good to note that the wildlife of the river has improved since farm waste has been stopped. Have any wildlife projects been undertaken? Has a species survey been conducted? We would love to hear of any activities that the committee has undertaken to promote an awareness of wildlife.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control was not that good on the day of our visit. We note your local clean-up day in April, however perhaps your litter control strategy may need to be expanded. This will be particularly important with the new housing developments. With so much work in progress the village was not seen at its

best.

TIDINESS

Given the extent of development work in progress the village did not appear particularly neat and tidy, this is understandable and is (hopefully) a temporary situation.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The many new residential developments in the village will present both a challenge to the committee and an opportunity. We congratulate you on attempts to form residents groups in the new estates and on the one in the Mount Range estate. Weedy kerbs were noted in one new development. This is something that residents should be made aware of.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Some road surfaces in the village are quite poor, for example the road to the school, the church and the Community Hall. Lots of potholes were experienced. The lane beside Johnny's Bar is dreadful and needs to be totally refurbished. Do try to have footpaths from the village centre to all housing developments, school, church, Community Hall etc.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Firies was not seen at its best during adjudication due to on-going development. We look forward to repeat visits to chart your progress into the future.