

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KNOCKANURE**
County : **KERRY**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-2002

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2002 | Mark Awarded 2001 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 32 | 31 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 25 | 25 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 26 | 24 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 17 | 17 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 24 | 24 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 14 | 14 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 20 | 20 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 22 | 20 |
| General Impression | 10 | 6 | 6 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 186 | 181 |

Knockanure, County Kerry

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Knockanure is very welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission this year. The village enjoys a rural setting amongst low hills and lush countryside. Scenic views of the surrounding countryside are a pleasant feature of Knockanure. We note with interest the details of your planned work programme and wish you well in its implementation.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most buildings are presented to a high standard and the church with its bell tower was particularly admired, the addition of appropriate wrought iron handrails will enhance this area further. Flynn's Bar, as usual, is well presented, the 'Guinness' sign is acceptable but the 'Harp' sign is outdated and should be removed or, at a minimum, should be maintained clean. We look forward to the appropriate redevelopment of the old national school on the eastern road. Some buildings need to be painted to freshen their appearance and, as you are aware, the workshop/garage in the village centre at the beginning of the cul-de-sac road looks quite bad, we wish you well in overcoming this problem.

LANDSCAPING

The village has a fine collection of mature, semi-mature and young trees. Healthy high and low hedgerow have been noted also and indeed the new hedgerow from the sports grounds towards the village is establishing itself well. Newly planted trees in the church carpark and elsewhere including school grounds will provide a valuable heritage for future generations. The grotto looks especially well and the stone work here was admired. The rose display at the nameplate at the northern entrance to the village was in full bloom during adjudication.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

We are happy that you are pleased with the new handbook and that you will use this as a source of ideas for an appropriate project under this heading. Of particular interest might be the new Neighbourhood Scheme. This might be an appropriate project for you to undertake. We look forward to a survey of the wildlife of the area and having the details of these in your submissions in future years. Local walks, including nature walks, should be identified and signposted from the village.

LITTER CONTROL

Litter control is good, the village was litter free during adjudication. We note with interest your encouragement to

households and the local school to keep litter in check. Do keep us informed of your litter management strategies as these can earn you valuable additional marks also.

TIDINESS

Tidiness is quite good in the village with the exception of the old school, as mentioned above, and the workshop / garage in the village centre.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The majority of residential properties are nicely presented. Congratulations on the increase in your housing stock since last year and in your efforts to incorporate new residents into the Tidy Towns effort. Some properties need to be painted to freshen their appearance and many boundary walls could be cleaned or painted also. Encourage householders to pay particular attention to the roadside areas to their boundary walls, in many cases these are weedy and rough in appearance. Do try to achieve a consistency having all either hard surfaced or grassed.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Road surfaces in the village are quite poor, no doubt this problem will be addressed over the coming years. Do make representations to the council regarding the ducting of cables during the course of resurfacing. This will enable you to provide street lighting on attractive lampstandards. Some signs need to be refurbished, for example the speed limit sign on the eastern approach road. In some cases field boundaries could be better shaped. Grass cuttings ideally should be removed rather than left along the roadside as they look unattractive as they mature. They also enrich the earth and hinder the growth of wildflowers.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

The overall impression of Knockanure is favourable, however a little more attention to detail is necessary. We wish you well in the implementation of your plan and look forward to many repeat visits. Thank you for your participation.