

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Finuge**

Ref: **339**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **231**

Category: **A**

Date: **31/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	20
Litter Control	40	32	30
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	31
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	231	221

Overall Developmental Approach:

Your submission, complete with sketch map and detailed work programme, was of immense assistance to the adjudication. Thank you for your minute details. You obviously have a good understanding of the competition and the various categories under scrutiny. Your challenge now is to adhere to your plan and ensure you finish the various projects to a high standard. You have done well in recent years and your success is measured by a continuous increase in marks.

The Built Environment:

The principal buildings of the village were well presented again this year and we look forward to the completed restoration of the thatched house in the village centre. This is a focal point and its appropriate restoration is important to maintain the rural ethos of Finuge. As always Teach Siamsa is well presented - is its use as prevalent as previous years? In general, the presentation of buildings is without fault, so well done.

Landscaping:

This is certainly your strong point and the host of different species of flowers, shrubs and trees combine to give bright colour to the village from all approaches. Indeed, your attention to detail in extending the flower displays to the wall tops is commendable. You are also endowed with many

mature trees and the whole mix of new and old is excellent. Every approach road brings a surprise and your commitment on adding to the landscaping each year is most praiseworthy. As mentioned, the square is excellent. Also, of above average is the GAA park, which is beautifully landscaped at the entrance and provides a model for others to pursue. The village is being put forward for a landscape award. The grotto is very well presented and has a high display of flowers and shrubs.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your intentions to promote wildlife at the disused quarry is a good idea. Under this section you can raise your marks by identifying the local species of wildlife and ideally publishing them in an inexpensive leaflet form. This might lead to the erection of an illustrated wildlife board. Also, as you plant new shrubs, you should plant for food with appropriate species, e.g. holly, alder, whitethorn and other such species.

Litter Control:

You have scored well in this section again this year and litter was not to be seen on adjudication day, apart from a couple of pieces. Well done on your rota system, which is obviously proving effective.

Tidiness:

You have a few problems in this category. The small area opposite Teach Síamsa is poorly presented and needs a clean-up. There are a few poorly presented open spaces on the road up to the bridge from the village. However, the village was found to be tidy in general.

Residential Areas:

You seem to have the full backing of the residents and almost all of the houses were of high quality with a high standard of presentation. Some individuals have excelled in the presentation of their gardens, not least a lovely house on the RHS as you leave the village on the R557. The house beside the bridge as you enter the village presents a great image on this approach.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The refurbished bridge is spectacular and of a really high quality. You should get the authorities to remove the sponsors' signs at this stage. How lively to witness a large area of village in North Kerry. The Millennium Garden is excellent and well complemented by the adjacent house. Some of the grass on the Lixnaw approach was overgrown, but this is quite a lengthy approach and maintenance is quite demanding. On the approach from Dromclough there is a most beautiful roadside front with a great variety of trees, especially mountain ash. This is a real hidden gem and should be used to boost your wildlife marks. The stone walls are all well maintained which is very important as they are a feature of the village and you have gone the extra mile in planting such a colourful array of flowers on the tops - well done.

General Impression:

Finuge - a village of distinction with a rich display of colour, traditional features, and most of all a caring community - always a treat to visit. Good luck in 2004.

Second Round Adjudication:

The retention of the square traditional village nameplate signs on approach roads is to be commended. An attractive cottage next to that on the Listowel Road was admired. Weed control was a problem at the timber railway sleepers of the floral displays in front of the GAA Club. Síamsa Tíre's

thatched premises looked well. O'Sullivan's was very fresh in yellow. An attractive garden filled with roses on the Lixnaw side of the village was greatly admired. The long stretch of stone walling, topped with nasturtiums, looked quite magnificent on this road. The grotto looked well. A couple of papers were noted sprinkled along the roadsides, but generally the standard of litter control was good on the day. Flyposting is an activity which should be discouraged. The village garden filled with flowers made an attractive display. The wildlife area was noted and admired. Finuge is a most attractive village which was a pleasure for the adjudicator to visit for the first time.