

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Firies**

Ref: **138**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **172**

Category: **A**

Date: **18/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	21	20
Landscaping	40	26	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	25	24
Tidiness	20	10	9
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	22
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	172	167

Overall Developmental Approach:

It is encouraging to note that your committee finds participation in the Competition worthwhile, particularly in the context of litter control. There is a very considerable amount of building work taking place in the vicinity of the village at present. However, your committee has made a good start and it is hoped that your efforts will be successful. It is useful that you are working with the Local Authority in your Tidy Towns efforts.

The Built Environment:

Some buildings in the village are very well maintained. The church is a beautiful building and is excellently maintained. The village hall across the road is also very well looked after. Firies National School was also beautifully presented. The old village hall seems to be still for sale and so it has not been possible to make progress with that building. It would also seem that the old creamery building has not been developed. Hopefully progress will be made on these in due course. The business premises in the village were quite well presented.

Landscaping:

The landscaping, flower beds etc. in the school grounds were excellently maintained and presented. The landscaping in the green area at the new housing development in the vicinity of the old hall is to

be welcomed. It is encouraging to note too that a tree planting programme is being carried out in conjunction with many of the house building programmes in and around the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It would be advisable for your Committee to develop, in any way possible, the wildlife aspect of your vicinity. In order to achieve this it may be advisable to seek the advice of wildlife experts. The creation of suitable habitats in the vicinity for wildlife would enhance the area considerably and would also be a focal point for the local community, in particular for the pupils in the local National School

Litter Control:

It is noted again this year that your Committee organised a litter day in April. This is an excellent effort and your Committee should continue with it for the future. On the day of adjudication this year the litter situation was quite good with a couple of exceptions. There was some litter at the railing of the car park near the church. It is suggested that a litter bin may be positioned here. In order to control the litter situation, it is necessary to have adequate litter bins available. In the area of the shops in the village there was no litter; also the area of the telephone kiosk across the road from the shops were free of litter.

Tidiness:

The village generally was quite tidy at the time of adjudication. The area in the vicinity of the funeral home was very clean and tidy. Also the area in the vicinity of the school was very clean and tidy. The areas adjoining the business premises in the village were very tidy. The general areas in the vicinity of the old creamery would need to be tidied up and wooden pallets, etc. in the vicinity of the building would need to be disposed of. That area in the vicinity of "Johnnys" would also need to be improved.

Residential Areas:

Existing residences in and around the village were very well presented. As has been noted, there is a large amount of residential development taking place in and near the village. When completion of these developments takes place, the village will begin to take on a more developed effect.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The place name sign for the village on the Dingle approach road needs to be cleaned. The approach road from Farranfore was quite tidy. The Committee and the community area to be complimented in the work which has been done on the old cemetery. The new access path to the cemetery Cill na nAon - Kilnanore Old Burial Ground through the field is a good development. The old gates to the cemetery and the cemetery itself are very well maintained. Also, the entrance to Cill na nAon-Kilnanore New Burial Ground is very clean and tidy and here too the cemetery is very well maintained.

General Impression:

Firies is a lovely pleasant village and has some attractive rural features. It is very important for the community at this time to have an active Rural Development Group with a Tidy Towns Sub Committee to deal with local environmental matters. When present building works are completed, it will be important for your Committee to ensure in conjunction with the Local Authority, that local environmental matters are taken care of.

