

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knockanure**

Ref: **149**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **205**

Category: **A**

Date: **07/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	32
The Built Environment	40	27	25
Landscaping	40	29	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	28	24
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	22
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	205	186

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your entry form and sketch map which proved helpful on adjudication day. Though a small, attractive rural village with beautiful environs you still need a plan that will help you to further your aims and advance your marks. It has been some time since this adjudicator visited Knockanure and the improvements are impressive.

The Built Environment:

You have some very interesting buildings and many with traditional features of distinction. You need to retain the rural ethos of the village as much as possible and don't be in a hurry to adapt ultra modern materials or design. Nobody will deny that the church is unusual and the landscaping of the adjacent car park and development of roadside boundary walls have certainly improved this site. The grassed area in particular is an example for others to follow. The school is attractively presented and the few commercial buildings looked really well. What a delight to witness the development at the old school - a constant proposal from this adjudicator. Your challenge here is to restore it in a traditional manner and as near as feasible to the original. Don't be tempted to take away the boundary wall in the interest of "car parking". This is an important educational link with the past. When complete you should landscape it appropriately.

Landscaping:

This is now your strong point and the plethora of flowers, shrubs, trees, hedges, window boxes and hanging baskets combine to give a high degree of colour to the village. There are many welcome surprises in the village e.g. the treatment of the village sign on the school approach and the flower display surrounding the holy-water font at the village corner. The flower display of Hill Grove provides an appropriate introduction to the village from this approach.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

In the absence of a river, you can still promote wildlife by "planting for food". When planting shrubs, select ones that will give food in the autumn e.g. Holly, Mountain Ash etc,

Litter Control:

The village was virtually free of litter on adjudication day and does not appear to be a problem - so well done as you had a problem in this respect some years ago.

Tidiness:

Due to the amount of dereliction, unoccupied buildings, uncared for open spaces and the black spot in the village centre, you are losing marks in this section. This improvement will only come in time but you need to continue your endeavours for progress.

Residential Areas:

The standard and presentation of houses in and around the village is excellent. The house opposite the church has improved significantly and the landscaping is almost complete. The old tractor is colourful. New houses now give you an opportunity to recruit new members so don't be slow about inviting participation to your efforts. Developers of houses should be encouraged to finish well by landscaping and removing any surplus materials. Flynn's Bar is excellent but do remove the Harp sign.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The two principal approach roads were well presented. The road up to the old school needs hedge trimming as it is overgrown. The roof of the building behind Flynn's is in need of painting. A number of corrugated sheds need attention - these could be attractive if freshly painted. Road surface is excellent and now unfortunately accommodating speeding motorists who are ignoring the speed limit sign - what a pity. The new tarmacadam makes the village look really clean and this has lifted your marks. Of course, a phased plan over a number of years would make allowances for eventually placing overhead wires underground. You should consider two Fáilte signs for the approach roads. The Grotto, as always, is very well presented - although the statues need a clean-up. The monument on the approach road at Gort a Ghleanna is magnificent and well commemorated in song and story.

General Impression:

Your best performance to date. By next year, when the old school is finished, you will be in a new league and adjudication will be more critical and will pay greater attention to detail. Don't give up on the black spot and good luck for 2004