

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Finuge**

Ref: **433**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **234**

Category: **A**

Date: **21/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	33	32
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	234	231

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submission outlining work on hand and plans for the future. Your outline and illustrated map was very helpful on adjudication day. We commend you on your close association with so many agencies and for adhering to an agreed plan. You are now at a high level and attention to detail is all important as you strive to increase your marks.

The Built Environment:

Buildings looked well again this year. We congratulate you on completing the thatched cottage which is a focal landmark at this cross. However, we note the whitewash has already gone poor so it looks like you may need to paint it quite regularly from now on. You should also go the extra mile and improve the surrounds and perhaps plant some climbing roses in keeping with the tradition of thatched cottages. Teach Siamsa has gone dull and the landscaping is not as attractive as previous years. Still no improvement with the house opposite.

Landscaping:

You have scored well in this category again this year and volunteers were observed planting flowering plants on the longest day in the year: too late for this adjudication we regret. Your work on presenting approach roads to a high standard is praiseworthy and you have embarked on a great

deal of grass cutting. You are well matched by individual effort and many houses have excellent gardens presented to a high standard. We notice new buildings on every approach, some featuring attractive restoration, so well done. The time demanding flower displays give great colour to the village and are now a feature of Finuge. We acknowledge the annual demand on flower planting and the results were obvious.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We note your signs for the Nature Reserve, but we find it very overgrown and wild. There is a fine line between sporadic development and a phased plan for this area. The millennium garden is very colourful but the forecourt is in need of weed spraying. You have two grottoes under adjudication and they both looked well.

Litter Control:

The village has performed well here again this year and litter control is very good and does not seem to be a problem.

Tidiness:

You still have some dereliction and unoccupied houses in need of attention. We also noticed an abandoned red car visible from the roadside. Some open spaces are untidy and keeping your marks at a standstill here. However, the core of the village is good.

Residential Areas:

As mentioned earlier many new houses are now adding to your population and this offers opportunity for new recruits. For the most part these houses are blending in well but will need appropriate landscaping to be compatible with existing traditional developments. When planting we suggest you plant similar species: e.g.,lime, maple, oak, ash, beech or perhaps birch, although these can be problematic with roots coming to the surface in years to come. Planting similar species makes a statement and looks better than a variety of trees with different characteristics.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road structure is very good and of course you seem to pay a price for this with fast moving traffic. The bridge, referred to in previous years is really attractive, but we once again suggest you get the large promotional sign removed: it has given its message and served its purpose. Some rear and side entrances are not matching the standard of the village core. These areas are now an integral part of tidy towns and need attention.

General Impression:

Once again you have achieved a high mark and we commend you on maintaining such a standard. You now need to revisit the problem areas mentioned in past reports and seek the cooperation of owners and those in a position to assist you. The village remains a delight to visit. We wish you well in your endeavours.