

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Firies**

Ref: **84**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **175**

Category: **B**

Date: **10/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	22	21
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	25	25
Tidiness	20	10	10
Residential Areas	30	20	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	6	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>172</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your submission and details of work on hand and work planned. You have a committee of just nine people and you will need many more to tackle the many problems facing your village in the task ahead. Your priority now is for a plan that will outline the problems, make suggestions for improvement, identify agencies that can best help you, organise each estate and make Tidy Towns everybody's business. Indeed your problems can be summed up in two words: plan and organisation.

### The Built Environment:

Your village is unusual in that the new houses outnumber by far the old ones and what is happening in reality is that Firies is changing dramatically. You have an urgency to create some cohesion within the community, if not the village will become just a segment of an evolving new Firies. Housing estates as separate entities are good but they are so numerous and so widespread as to make it difficult to define the village proper. Estates are also in need of much landscaping which should be appropriate to the ethos of the village.

### Landscaping:

You have numerous areas crying out for tree planting and many open spaces are ideal sites for

flower and shrubbery development. You are endowed with an attractive river and the river bridge could be made into a place of beauty. A footpath developed inside the bridge wall is a good suggestion outlined in your submission. The numerous approach roads could be much improved by tree planting. You should plant for the next generation: ideally oak, ash, sycamore, lime and beech. Don't be tempted to give a quick fix by placing numerous window boxes and hanging baskets. Seek advice from a landscape architect.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

You have opportunity to promote wildlife in the area. Give some thought to a riverside walk and when complete, do a survey of wildlife prevalent in the area. You can then consider erecting a series of plaques illustrating the popular species of bird and animal life.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control is not a problem apart from the bridge area. Public areas are well free of litter and this is commendable. With the influx of increased residential areas there will be a need to ensure that litter bins are adequate in number and also well maintained.

### **Tidiness:**

Your problems here relate to a plethora of neglected open spaces. Dereliction within the village core is a serious problem and will need to be tackled in the short term if you are to progress. There are several broken walls and poorly presented boundary walls in and around the village.

### **Residential Areas:**

The inordinate amount of house building relevant to the village population is unique. This gives you an opportunity to recruit new energy and commitment from new residents all too willing to contribute to an enhance Firies. This will only happen if you set about organising the estates to participate.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Road structure is poor and you need to lobby the Kerry Co. Council for improvement. A good road structure, good road surface, effective well designed signage and markings would make significant improvements. The traffic is now dangerous and the bridge is a problem area, so there is much to do.

### **General Impression:**

The village has potential for high scoring in the competition and the influx of new residents should be looked upon positively. We urge your to draft the above mentioned plan and most of all organise yourselves into an active group capable of bringing the community with you in your endeavours. We wish you luck for 2005.