

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knocknagoshel**

Ref: **209**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **205**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	
The Built Environment	40	28	
Landscaping	40	32	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	
Litter Control	40	26	
Tidiness	20	13	
Residential Areas	30	22	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	
General Impression	10	6	
TOTAL MARK	300	205	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome back to the competition after a three-year break. Since your last entry you have made some changes to the village and to the environs. Also some of your developments of previous years have deteriorated and need attention. Your five page submission suggests a community active in many areas of economic, sporting and culture and you have had the village featured in national television. It is obvious from the listing of your activities that the community is supportive and prepared to contribute in diverse ways to the general welfare of the area. The village has potential to become a high scorer in the competition and many of the traditional features are attractive and worthy of preservation.

The Built Environment:

The layout of the village is quite receptive to high colour, good stone work, traditional features, and good landscaping. You have escaped the boom of house building, now infringing on many villages and turning them into satellite towns. For this you should be grateful and concentrate on restoration rather than new developments. The church and environs dominate the village and the school is well presented. Well done to the commercial outlets in the village and The Family Shop has an attractive mural on its gable end. We congratulate the developers of The Courtyard, which is an exemplary restoration success, complete with sash windows and a high use of traditional materials. This adjudicator can recall the lane in advance of this development. The development also illustrated what can be achieved with old buildings, and this may provide a catalyst for the

improvement of several derelict and unoccupied buildings. The community centre is a disappointment and should be a showpiece for the village.

Landscaping:

You have worked down through the years on tree planting, shrubbery development, flower gardens, and Gáirdín Dé in particular. The village park has received much acclaim since its development and won great praise from this adjudicator some years back. It is now in need of a good clean up and the footpath in particular was overgrown with weeds. It also illustrated the need for sustained maintenance with all landscaping developments in particular. The seating also requires attention. This should be done for 2005: it only requires a few evenings work from the community. The approach road from the GAA field has improved and offers opportunity for further landscaping. Well done to the GAA for the new club development. They should now go the extra mile and have the environs well landscaped.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your best opportunity here is to work with the school authorities and organise a wildlife project based on the popular bird and animal life of the area.

Litter Control:

Litter control is good and the election day movements had no adverse effects on the litter state of the village. The school was litter free. Congratulations to the school for the Green Flag achievement.

Tidiness:

You have serious tidiness problems caused principally by derelict premises, uncared for open spaces and unoccupied houses. This problem will only be solved by a long term sustained effort with the active participation of owners and Kerry Co. Council who have powers to compel owners to make improvements.

Residential Areas:

Housing estates and individual houses were well presented and many have well presented gardens. As mentioned the emphasis on new developments should be to build new and restore existing houses within the village. This would be favoured over ribbon development.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Some road structure is poor and needs improvement. The lime kiln provides a favourable entrance to the village and we commend the erection of the bilingual plaque. The bottle bank should be moved to the village centre where it would be put to better use, provided of course it is not abused like other centres.

General Impression:

It was delightful to visit Knocknagoshel once again and we hope you will resume your efforts to further enhance the village. We suggest a phased plan that will chart the way forward. Much of the suggestions contained in your submission forms the basis of what is required. Such a plan should have input from the community and backing from the various agencies, especially the local authorities.

