

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Waterville**

Ref: **241**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **209**

Category: **B**

Date: **08/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	14
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	209	207

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your submission which proved helpful on adjudication day. We would query your category here and suggest you confirm your population as the area seems quite large for category B. You are fortunate to be associated with the IRD and no doubt you are benefitting from such a backup. The support from the FÁS scheme is also of immense benefit to you. However, we would remind you that the true spirit of Tidy Towns is high participation from the voluntary sector. We commend you on your ability to raise €5,000 for development and your association with the CLÁR programme will multiply this and give you very good value. Indeed, your close links with other agencies also give benefit all round. Once again we urge you to adhere closely to your agreed plan and ensure all developments are well maintained.

The Built Environment:

The village has some fine old and new buildings and the influence of tourism is obvious throughout with accommodation providers in great supply. The tourist office is badly located and should be one of the most prominent buildings in the village. The community centre and adjacent tennis court were well presented. The forecourt at Charlies is very untidy. Bay View is well presented but the grass in front needs cutting. An Tigín is attractive and nominated for a shopfront award. Waterville House is superb in a most unique setting. The unoccupied P.J. Sullivan's presents a poor image and needs attention. The Butler Arms is well presented and the monument fronting it should be refurbished. St. Michael's Church is attractive. The catholic church is presented to a high standard, though far

removed from the village itself. The surfacing of the promenade is good and helps raise your standards here.

Landscaping:

You should concentrate on the promenade and create a village of high colour. This can be achieved by developing a series of small areas suitable for flower, shrub and tree planting. The availability of FAS here would be of great benefit. Similarly the approach roads need more tree planting although there is some very good individual effort by many householders and commercial operators. Playgrounds and tennis courts should be places of excellent landscaping.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have great opportunities to promote wildlife and you should start with the schools and generate an interest. Ideally you should contact some of the wildlife enthusiasts who will advise you and how to get started.

Litter Control:

Litter control was good on a busy June day. Litter bins seem adequate in number and were well positioned. And yet we read with great interest of 50 bags of litter being collected from the foreshore: we find this staggering and it highlights the problems of transient litter. It is now obvious that this requirement will be recurring, so you will need to plan accordingly.

Tidiness:

Many unattended open spaces, dereliction and unoccupied premises are keeping your marks down in this section. We find your problems regarding insurance for FAS employees puzzling as such schemes all around the country are engaged in the use of machines. We suggest you contact the committee in Portmagee for advice.

Residential Areas:

You have scored well here and most houses were well presented and many had attractive gardens projecting a very favourable image. We would urge developers of new houses to finish well with appropriate landscaping. We commend The Lodge on the use of timber in the building and would urge developers to shy away from excessive use of pvc windows and doors in traditional buildings, especially in the restoration of old buildings.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The new road structure coming in to the village is of a high quality and should be extended to the village proper. Back and side entrances are now an integral part of the completion and many new developments are sited in these areas, due to the value of core village property.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Waterville after many years and witness the significant progress in and around the village. The long promenade offers great scope for creating a village of excellence, with well presented buildings and high standard landscaping. We urge you to adhere to a phased plan that will achieve these results over a period. Your close association with other agencies will benefit your efforts. Finally, we see no reason why you should withdraw from the competition for 2005/06, due to sewage scheme problems. Adjudicators are experienced in dealing with such developments and such a scheme will be excluded from your endeavours. Our experience with opting out for periods is that it loses impetus and often leads to the creation of apathy. We wish you well in the

future.