

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ceann Tragha**

Ref: **704**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **206**

Category: **A**

Date: **20/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	
The Built Environment	40	30	
Landscaping	40	26	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	
Litter Control	40	32	
Tidiness	20	15	
Residential Areas	30	22	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	
General Impression	10	7	
TOTAL MARK	300	206	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Ventry has a unique character and care must be taken in any developments to preserve that character and identity. Improvements should only be consistent with nature of the village. The important development aspects are the repair of any damaged walls and fences, restraint of plant growth and the keeping of the village clean. Providing extra walking passages and good access to the beach could be another priority. Signage is also important. Care is needed to avoid imposing unnaturalness on the lovely setting.

The Built Environment:

The main buildings in the village look very well. The post office is a fine building and has a very good presentation. The school is well painted and the roadside stonewall looks well especially with the small ferns allowed grow in the crevices. The wall around the carpark is fine but there is need for repair at the entrance where some stonework has been damaged. The doors from the telephone kiosk have been removed and one is lying behind the kiosk. The Halla Ceann Tra was also noted. The Pottery building looks well. Thadys was also noted.

Landscaping:

The range of plants that grow in this locality is limited. Good use has been made of the successful

plants. The Fuchsia is predominant and looks beautiful. Hebes, Escallonia, Senecio, Malva, Olearias and New Zealand flax all succeed well and these are the plants to focus on. The lovely seaside garden by the pier shows a great example of seaside plants. The open greens look very well and were been mown during adjudication. Managing the natural landscape without imposing too much extra planting and at the same time restraining the plant to prevent encroachment on the roads are the two keys to care of the landscape. Gardens are well tended and the well-kept lawns and shrubberies of the holiday cottages gives them a crisp appearance.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There is a wonderful opportunity for observation of the wildlife along the beach and coastline. The display boards are useful in this regard. Any publications available guiding people as to what they may see on a walk – both plants and birds would be useful.

Litter Control:

Litter control is good. There were a number of small deposits of litter by the roadside at the village and at the beach carpark. The recycle bins are helpful and these hopefully are well used.

Tidiness:

Generally there is a good level of tidiness through the village. Some difficulties at the beach and caravan park – The rails at the caravan park need to be repaired in places. The old rusty container (Windsurfing) looks unattractive and some of the mobile homes need upgrading as they are becoming old. Removal of overhead wires would be a great advantage for the village visually. Some weediness was noted in the small carpark.

Residential Areas:

The small number of residences are well tended. The holiday cottages look very well, these are well painted and their surrounds are very well kept. Perhaps some planting of Fuchsias and Montbretias close to the walls of the buildings would help to soften the starkness of these buildings.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road surfaces are in good conditions as is the surface at the beach carpark. The pedestrian passageways from the village to the beach are attractive and well surfaced. The concrete walk along by the coast towards the beach from the village is attractive.

General Impression:

Ventry is looking very well with the full blooming of the Fuchsia. The natural beauty of the sea and surrounding coastline makes this a unique place. It is important that the character of the village is retained and good efforts are in place to do this.