

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Currans**

Ref: **550**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **201**

Category: **A**

Date: **19/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	29	30
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	24
General Impression	10	6	7
TOTAL MARK	300	201	200

Overall Developmental Approach:

The six-member committee is a reasonably good number for a small village and it is good to learn that there is good support for the work of the committee. Currans is an attractive quiet village and has great potential for improvement. A planned approach is key to future success. A list of all the work that needs to be done should be made, work out what is needed to do this work and who can be involved. Next put a time scale and a costing and work out a five-year plan of action. Such a plan is now needed for this category in the competition.

The Built Environment:

The church and the two public houses are prominent feature of the village. The church looks very well with the well-painted walls, roadside walls and walls surrounding the carpark. The Blue painted house next to the church is striking. Stonewalls form an important feature through the village – the railway bridge, river bridge and all the roadside walls along the way. These are a good feature and they have been reflected well in the roadside walls of some of the houses. The walls near the telephone kiosk and around under the bridge towards the river are in poor condition and need repairing. While the treatment of roadsides with herbicides seems drastic at least it has revealed what repairs are needed to the walls. By evening out the top of these walls they could look more attractive. The stone piers at the kiosk need attention as was mentioned last year. The derelict buildings present a challenge – the old school building and the building by the Village Inn in particular are troublesome.

Landscaping:

Very good work has been done along the roadsides by the picnic areas and keeping this area as it is deserves credit. This is hard work and the result is very pleasant. The occupants of the many bungalows along the roadsides keep their gardens very well and these contribute greatly to the landscape of the entire area. The flower borders are attractive. The Ash trees along the roadsides give a lovely green foil to the village and any opportunity for further tree planting in gaps should be availed of. The planting surrounding the walls of the church carpark is very attractive and adds greatly to this area.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The roadside verges play a very important part in the wildlife of an area. It is not a good idea to use herbicide extensively as has happened here. This both destroys the sources for food and cover for wild life. It also looks unsightly. A pair of goldfinches was noticed in the village –it is important to retain these lovely birds by keeping habitats intact. Cleaning of excess vegetation is of courses needed but not as dramatically as has happened. The river offers further opportunity for wild life observation and access to this could make an interesting project.

Litter Control:

There was a considerable amount of litter noted by the telephone kiosk. Dumping has occurred behind the gate by the kiosk and old kitchen equipment and bottles make this area a very dirty and untidy spot. Otherwise the picnic areas, the church and surrounds look very clean

Tidiness:

The storing of bottles and rubbish at the tree by the Riverside View Pub is not very attractive. As mentioned above the rubbish accumulated behind the kiosk is also unhelpful. The picnic areas and the areas along the roads by the fine bungalows all look very tidy and well cared for. The pole with the dead branches beside the kiosk does not look well Hopefully the overhead wires will be removed in time.

Residential Areas:

All the housing appears to be of the bungalow type except for the blue painted house by the church and the two public houses. These are maintained well and make a good appearance from the roadside. The roadside stonewall frontages of many of the houses is attractive. Well-kept hedges are also pleasing

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roads to and within the village are in good condition. Roadside grasses are encroaching the road on the approach roads and need a little work to restrain them. The corner under the bridge could be hazardous and perhaps extra warning signs would be helpful in this regard.

General Impression:

There is a good commitment to work in the village. Rather than trying to do so much at the one time it would be wise to concentrate on particular areas and complete these fully. Divide the work into individual projects and complete those fully before starting the next. This is where a plan would be most helpful. The series of small murals along the wall by the church are attractive

