

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Finuge**

Ref: **690**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **235**

Category: **A**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	21
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	235	234

Overall Developmental Approach:

We are sorry to hear that your moral and enthusiasm has dipped during the year due to sad events and hope that with time a renewal will take place and further community spirit will help uplift spirits and Finuge will develop further. Many developments have taken place and the work of the committee is obvious. This is a very attractive small village with the traditional crossroad of an Irish village. The loss of the thatched cottage is a shame and hopefully this can be restored again. Planning will be needed for the future developments.

The Built Environment:

The cross with its focal point now missing poses a question as to how to get the thatching completed again. The statue and the grotto are important landmarks in the village. The red gates are attractive but behind these there are buildings that have seen better days. The whitewashed walls and a number of stonewalls through the village lend a good character to the roadsides. The building work at the GAA pitch is causing some disruption but when this is completed and proper finishing reinstatement is applied it will be well. The Teach Siamsa looks particularly well. Some corrugated roof buildings that need attention to painting will be resolved soon hopefully.

Landscaping:

Very good work has been done on the landscaping along the road sides There is a large amount of work in maintaining all these areas and great credit is due for the planting and maintenance of these areas. The individual gardens along the roadsides contribute well to the overall scene also and people who look after their own gardens so well are to be commended.. The simple formula of trees and well-kept grass verges works very well in this setting. The number of trees and hedges gives a warm spirit to the village. The Millennium garden is nicely planted and painted – the roadside wall is lovely – it would be nice to face the interior block walls with stone over time in the future

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildlife reserve is an interesting project. Access to this is now difficult. Some information about the range of wildlife – both plants and animals would be helpful here. Planting a wide range of plants along the roadsides and maintaining the natural hedgerows all helps to conserve the wildlife of the area.

Litter Control:

There is very good litter control in the village. Because of the heavy passing traffic there will also be some litter dropped from cars and trucks and constant vigilance will be needed to keep a check on this.

Tidiness:

The village has a very tidy appearance without imposing too much on the natural landscape of the region. The mown grass verges and well tended gardens and hedge frontages gives a well cared for and tidy look to the village.

Residential Areas:

The existing residences are well seated in the village landscape. New houses need to have their sites well reinstated so that they too become part of the landscape. Homes are well cared for. As mentioned last year it is wise that where possible – tree planting consistent with the major tree types already present in the village is done – this will lead to continuity and a more unified village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main road is in good condition and well marked. The cross roads forms an integral part of the village. With the speed of some cars passing through the village one wonders if some more signage to reduce speed would be helpful. It can be difficult to emerge from the side roads of the crossroads with fast traffic passing by.

General Impression:

Finuge is a very pleasant small village. The green aspect of the village is a major feature. Keeping maintenance standards high is key to keeping a good appearance. Encouraging people and trying to increase the committee membership in the wake of what has happened can resolve the difficulties encountered.

Second Round Adjudication:

It would appear that the committee has lost some impetus over the year due to several upsetting incidents. It is to be hoped that you will be able to regain your direction and enthusiasm, as there is no doubt that Finuge is a village with much potential to perform extremely well in the competition. Work appeared to be taking place at the thatched cottage on the day and hopefully this indicates that this will be restored to its former glory in the not too distant future! You will need to encourage

more people to join in to help you with your good work. It is essential to formulate a work programme – this will help you to give you direction and enthusiasm for your work. The retention of the traditional square sign on the Listowel road is commendable but it was in need of washing down. The GAA forecourt area should be resurfaced, although the cheerful tubs were admired. The grotto looked fresh and was well presented. O'Sullivan's was quite fresh in yellow, and Mc Carthy's was also well presented. The tree planting on the far side of the village is commendable, and the hydrangeas and nasturtiums were admired on top of the stone walling. The numerous cottage gardens of the village looked very pretty, although a couple of boundaries will need freshening before next year. Tin roof should also be considered when looking at the overall presentation of the village. The hedgerows make a real impact to the character of the village. Fly posting is a practise, which should be actively discouraged.