

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knocknagoshel**

Ref: **388**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **207**

Category: **A**

Date: **31/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	18
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	25
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	207	205

Overall Developmental Approach:

Knocknagoshel has progressed well since the return to the Tidy Towns competition. The five year plan, progress report to date and the photographs all show that there is a very active committee determined to make headway. The village is a very compact one and this is helpful. The fact that traffic does not pass through constantly makes the village a haven. The list of developments is commendable and hopefully this will continue and further enhance the village over the coming years.

The Built Environment:

The stonewalls that have been constructed give the village a very good character. These look very well on entering the village by Church View and continuing around to the Village Park. The Limekiln is a very good feature and well constructed. The church takes a very prominent position in the town and looks very well. The new house beside the church is being finished off and has an imposing style. The problem of derelict buildings is a real challenge. These do not look well and they are scattered through the village. Hopefully solutions will be found for these over the next few years. The school looks well. The restored Courtyard is a very good project and a good example of what restoration work can achieve. The community centre looks well this year with a nice painting scheme. The limestone signs are a welcome addition. A great amount of footpath paving has been done and this is helpful. The business premises look well along the street. The murals at

the school are delightful.

Landscaping:

The village park looks well kept with the new tarmacadam and well-tended gate and grass. Some new replacement shrub planting could be done now to replace those that are getting a little disproportionate and going beyond their best. When the ESB is connected this will make a lovely feature. The church grounds are well planted with the side shrub border. The Bible garden is interesting and a great deal of work has gone into the planting, design and inscriptions. Care must now be taken that the grass weeds do not get ahead. The shrubbery under the large trees has developed despite the enormous trees overhead and the competition from their roots. The new seating at the Limekiln is attractive

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The road around by the back of the church is interesting as it forms an ideal place for ferns to develop so well. A wildlife project should be undertaken close to the village or even making best use of the back road by the church a list of plants and birds noted in the area could be made – this could be done in conjunction with the school and would be worthwhile.

Litter Control:

Litter control is good except for a few instances. The steel litterbins look well. Constant vigilance is needed to keep litter under control

Tidiness:

The derelict buildings are the main source of untidiness in the village. Unfortunately for a small village there appear to be a number of these and dealing with them is always troublesome. The area behind the telephone kiosk is very weedy and untidy; similarly the grassed area at the top of Church View estate on the left needs attention.

Residential Areas:

Residences are generally kept well and this is a credit to their owners- each well-kept house and garden contributes well to the overall appearance of the village. It would be great if the solution to the derelict housing were – like the courtyard, utilizing these buildings for redevelopment.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces are in reasonably good state. The tarmacadamming of the forecourt of the Community Centre and the Village Park is helpful. The road around behind the church is very rough and hopefully this will be rectified. The pedestrian way from the church to Church View estate is very useful. The path looks new and some work is needed to the sides of this path

General Impression:

Knocknagoshel is a very interesting little village enjoying isolation from the mainstream of traffic yet a close distance from the main roads. It is good that the village style is preserved and this should be one of the chief aims of all development programmes for the village