

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Tarbert**

Ref: **504**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **236**

Category: **B**

Date: **12/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	34	34
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	23
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	236	232

Overall Developmental Approach:

From the submission with the entry form it is easy to see that there is a great commitment to development and progress in Tarbert.. The Tarbert development Association 2005 plan is very impressive. It would be wise to plan the developments over a three to five year period – in that way the longer-term programmes can be charted and progress assessed each year. The new Publication “ Comprehensive guide to Tarbert is a marvelous addition and a great source of information – Well done. The maintenance plan is also helpful as it pinpoints the work that is needed. A committee of 12 persons is very good these days and there is obviously a great community spirit in Tarbert.

The Built Environment:

Generally buildings are very well presented and keeping both road frontage walls and gates is always important. The Bridewell looks particularly well and is a landmark. The problem of derelict or buildings with lapsed care is always difficult to resolve. Buckleys for instance, opposite the Garda Station being in such a prominent position presents a real challenge. The surrounding railings of the statue are rusting a little and the stains are encroaching on the painted surround. The Fire Station exterior wall, keep clear signs and chain need attention. The area at the back of the Ferry House exposing rough wall could be improved. The view of the backs of buildings on approach from the Ferry could be developed further – gardens and attention to backs of houses would help - already a number of improvements have been made in this regard. The old stonewalls and stone bridges lend

great character to the village and care and attention to these over the years has paid off well. The petrol pumps on the Foynes side of the village are in need of upgrading.

Landscaping:

There is a considerable amount of landscaping through the village, surrounds and towards the Ferry Port. The picnic area park on the Foynes Road is well cared for, the seating and picnic tables look extremely well painted, grass care is good and weed control by the periphery is also good. Perhaps a more imaginative style of planting within the picnic area would be welcome now. Plant containers through the village are colourful and individual gardens contribute well to the overall landscape. The containers at the Bridewell look particularly well. Grass care and surrounds at the ferry port are well maintained. Many large mature trees surround the village giving a lovely green background. It would be wise to identify places – maybe field boundaries where more trees could be planted for continuity.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The woodland riverside walkway is very attractive and affords opportunity for wildlife observation. The walk to the Ferry Port also provides similar possibilities and is well used. The section in the Guide to Tarbert on wildlife is valuable and the more material about wildlife observation in the area is available the better. This gives people good encouragement to look about them and observe. Maintaining and adding wildlife - as noted in the entry submission is also very helpful.

Litter Control:

There is a good standard of litter control although a small amount was observed along the main streets in places. Continual vigilance is needed in this regard. The litterbins are well placed and the new bins look well. The achievement of the Green Flag by the school is a great tribute to all at the school and this sort of commitment helps greatly to pursue litter freedom and appreciation of a quality environment – congratulations to all concerned.

Tidiness:

There is a very good level of tidiness about the village. The dilapidated and less cared for buildings are unhelpful but usually these get resolved in time. The overhead cables – hopefully also in time will be placed underground. Continual lobbying may help here. The area behind Carmodys public house and behind the Ferry Hotel are areas where improvements could be made, Also the petrol station opposite the Fire Station is closed at present and frequently such places quickly become untidy. Some gates need attention for example the gate in the wall opposite the Bridewell.

Residential Areas:

Both the single houses throughout the village and surrounds and the small estates are well cared for. Tieraclea Park is very pleasantly maintained and the tree planting of the past now gives a very settled look. Donard Crescent is also well cared for with the road frontage areas well maintained and displaying nice colour features. St. Patrick's terrace is well maintained and the good combination of grass and trees pays off well.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces are well cared for in general. The roadway behind the Carmodys Public House is in poor condition. There is a very good surface at the carpark at the Ferry port. Along the roadside to the Ferry Port – there is a verge with shrub planting and chippings – in some places there are weedy stretches in these chippings. Kerbs in places through the centre of the village need attention.

General Impression:

Tarbert is an impressive place to visit. There is great character lent especially by the attractive stone walls of which there are many and the lovely waterfront view. There have been good developments over the years and a continued development will bring Tarbert even further.

Second Round Adjudication:

The picnic area on the Foynes road was well presented. Weed control was a problem to the bases of stone boundary walls along this road. It was also a problem to kerbsides the road leading down to ferry, and those along the main street. Litter control on Second Adjudication Day could also have been better in this location, and at the Square. The road to the ferry is a long stretch of roadway to maintain – here, the grass had been cut but dead grass had yet to be removed, and revealed litter below. As mentioned by the First Adjudicator, the appearance of the rear areas when viewed from this location is important – one badly maintained outbuilding was in contrast to a lovely garden leading down to the waterside. The buildings of Bridewell Street and Church Street were not as well presented as those of the Square and beyond. The Central Garage sported a rusty tin roof, which looked unfortunate, the Garda Station was quite flaky and Buckley's appeared to be empty. B&Bs were generally well presented. The Keldun House was very fresh and Fitzgerald's with its attractive floral displays. The Woodland Walk is a fine asset to have so close to the town centre. St Patrick's Terrace was neatly presented. Rusty stains were evident to the plinth of the grotto.