

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Waterville**

Ref: **569**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **213**

Category: **B**

Date: **22/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	14
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	15	13
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	213	209

Overall Developmental Approach:

The information and map supplied with the entry form were helpful at adjudication time. The beautiful setting of the village, long seafront promenade, old and new buildings all combine to make Waterville an interesting place to visit. It is important to identify the objectives of the committee and to focus on these in the next five years. The slipway will be a very good project. Lobbying is also a part of the role of a committee and lobbying to have the overhead cables placed underground would be helpful. Recruitment to gain more members is important and to develop community spirit which would lead to voluntary works being carried out.

The Built Environment:

The very many new buildings in the village over the past few years have changed the profile of the village somewhat. Many of these, of course, are holiday homes and possibly unoccupied for long periods – creating difficulties sometimes of maintenance. The buildings look very attractively coloured on approach to the village. In the core of the village the Butler Arms and Bay View hotels look well and are landmarks. The shops are generally well cared for. The long promenade makes great strolling ground and is of high quality. The community offices and toilets are neatly tucked into their setting. Churches are also landmark buildings for the village. The wall behind the Butler Arms hotel – facing the post office is in need of paint. The paint on the wall by the side of Coom a Cista shop is badly flaking. The Waterville Inn is indeed much improved since the last visit. The Community centre looks clean and bright and the walls in the forecourt are attractive.

Landscaping:

The sea winds limit the range of plants that can be grown successfully in the village. Good use is made of those plants that are successful – Fuchsias, Hebes, Olearias, Montbretias, New Zealand Flax, Hydrangeas, Escallonia, Cordylines and Pampas Grass. It would be interesting to try other plants for variety in the planting schemes – Red Hot Poker, Agapanthus, Libertia and some tall ornamental grasses. The small park area below the Butler Arms hotel is attractive and the sheltering effects of the shrubs create a pleasant atmosphere within. The grass along the promenade areas is well tended and gives a very attractive prospect. The use of railway sleepers inserted vertically and painted black near the Charlie Chaplin statue is attractive and the setting for the statue itself is well organised. The large green at St. Finians looks well – perhaps the line of tree planting could be continued along the length of the green.

The large space to the front of the Garda station could accommodate a landscape plan.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The seacoast area provides great opportunity for wildlife observation and with the aid of signboards and publications this can be brought to a wider audience,

Litter Control:

There is very good litter control. The work of gathering 25 bags of rubbish from the shoreline is very good – both as a community exercise and as a method of cleaning the area. Litter from the shoreline most likely blows into the village and can cause littering at times. The recycle bins are well placed and their surrounds are clean and not abused. Some small amounts of litter – broken glass were noted in the carpark by the community offices.

Tidiness:

There is a good degree of tidiness in the village. The poles and netting around the tennis courts at the carpark by the shore could be replaced as they look untidy at this stage having been damaged and rusted over the years. Back areas by the sides of buildings are often a source of untidiness – for example, behind Scarrif Meats. The “Ballroom of Imagination and Desire” area also needs some attention. Broken road surfaces such as at the corner at the Huntsman, the Beachcove and the entrance to St. Michael’s church need fixing. The removal of overhead wires would also help in this respect. Some building work ongoing at the back of the carpark at Centra is causing some disruption and untidiness at that spot. Buildings works frequently cause disruption - it is wise to keep an eye to ensure all sites are fully reinstated when the building work is complete.

Residential Areas:

The wide variety of housing types is very significant in the village. The appearance of individual houses and the care of their surrounds contribute greatly to the appearance of the village and good credit is due to those who maintain their properties well. The many new housing developments are in good order and the unity of the colour schemes is restful to the eye. The terrace of houses beyond the Garda station looks well with the pale combination of colour tones.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road along the promenade allows beautiful views and appears well. The roads through the village are generally in good condition – at some places attention is needed to broken surfaces – for example as mentioned above at the Huntsman, and St. Michaels Church. The need for footpaths along parts of the village is also apparent. Approach roads are in good condition and the roadside verges are best left to their natural vegetation, which can colonise the areas and only needs restraining at times.

General Impression:

Waterville by its nature is a very attractive area. It is important that all developments are consistent with keeping the natural beauty of the surrounds intact. Improvements to the roads within the village, attention to detail, the condition of buildings and back areas would all help in the further development of the village