

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Boolteens** Ref: **739**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **207**
Category: **A** Date(s): **20/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	26
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	207

Overall Development Approach:

Boolteens is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission. We note the absence of a planned work programme and urge you to prepare one as it will serve to focus your energy and activities in the years to come in the competition. The committee has done well to gain the involvement of the local community and the support of Kerry County Council. Do not lose heart regarding motivating the local community and indeed in your fund raising in general as these are difficulties all Tidy Towns Committees experience, particularly in the early years.

The Built Environment:

Both Murphys and the Anvil Bar are nicely presented. The low building with the corrugated roof could have its roof rehabilitated. Keel Community and Child Care premises is a fine building and has been considered for the Sustainable Development Award although its curtilage area is in need of resurfacing. The same point can be made in respect of the Keel Tool Hire premises and the car park to the Anvil Bar, both of the curtilage areas here appear rough. The school enjoys a neat presentation and the stone church was admired.

Landscaping:

The ivy planted to the roadside wall of the church car park is immature this year but will enhance this area as it becomes established. Young trees and shrubs at the Community and Child Care premises have been overtaken by weed growth and long grass which is pity as their beauty is lost and it will impede their growth. Flowerbeds have been noted for their colour and overall attractiveness, perhaps the school grounds can be landscaped. In your choice of trees and shrubs try to choose native deciduous species for trees as these will be supportive for wildlife.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The banks of the river in the village appear to be overgrown which is no doubt good for wildlife as it will offer protection and food however the wildlife itself could be identified and published on a illustrated interpretative panel in order to heighten awareness and appreciation of wildlife habitats amongst the community. Stands of wild flowers along the verges of the Mountain Road were colourful and attract butterflies. The entrance and boundary wall to Keel GAA sports grounds are quite nicely presented however the car park here needs to be resurfaced. Well done to the proprietor of the Anvil Bar for the development of the beer garden on the bank of the river and the proprietor of Murphys Bar for work accomplished to the storage shed at the corner of his car park, the resurfacing of the latter car park is acknowledged. We wish you every success with Kerry County Council in your endeavour to have the wall beside Murphys Bar refurbished.

Litter Control:

Litter control was very good on the day of adjudication and the village was litter free. Well done to the committee for regular litter clean ups. If you participate in the National Spring Clean keep us informed as this can help increase your marks under this heading, other litter control activities which you might have engaged in should be included also.

Waste Minimisation:

The bring bank is well utilised, no doubt due to publicity by the committee. Well done on your environmental awareness evening with guest speaker. To really do well this heading you should undertake an audit of the amount of waste generated within the community and be creative in devising a strategy to minimise the overall amount produced, as well as providing for recycling. The Race Against Waste booklet included in this year's Tidy Towns pack contains a number of good ideas on this.

Tidiness:

The base of the wall located across from Kavanaghs is quite overgrown / weedy, this should be kept neatly trimmed. A lot of untidiness was noted to the premises located on the opposite side of the road by the Anvil Bar (the Mountain Road) well done on refurbishment of sign posts and the provision of new ones by Kerry County Council perhaps a sign could be provided for the village Forge.

Residential Areas:

A number of roadside boundary walls to residential developments were in need of attention at the time of our visit however many gardens particularly along the Mountain Road were nicely presented and were admired. New stone boundary walls to residential properties are attractive and the new residential development located just before the Keel GAA sports grounds looks quite well.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces within the village and on entering from approach roads are quite good and hedgerow and verges are neatly maintained. The bridge looked quite well also and the lack of wirescape together with attractive lampstandards are a nice feature of Bolteems. As noted above the curtilage area to the Keel Community and Child Care Development premises is in need of resurfacing and the roadside area to its boundary wall could be improved also. As this building is one of the largest in the village it is important it is presented to the highest standard at all times.

General Impression:

Well done on an attractive presentation some of the points raised in this report might be incorporated into a planned work programme to chart your progress in the competition over the next few years.