

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Ceann Tragha** Ref: **330**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **211**
Category: **A** Date(s): **20/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	23
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	211

Overall Development Approach:

Ventry is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission. The village of Ventry is located on the Dingle Peninsula and enjoys a wonderful coastal setting with scenic seascapes and landscapes. Ventry is going through a transition period in that it has become a popular centre for residential dwellings both of the permanent type and holiday homes, this of course places pressures on the infrastructure of the village and expands the nature and extent of the work of the management of the village for the Tidy Towns Committee. We wish you every success in your management of growth and change in Ventry.

The Built Environment:

The school is perhaps the most important focal point of the village and it was good to note that it has been neatly presented in respect of the building itself, its grounds, and not forgetting its attractive roadside stone boundary wall. Both the Ventry Inn and the Post Office premises are excellent in presentation and their natural stone building material is a handsome feature also. Perhaps the proprietor of the Ventry Inn premises could be persuaded to replace the dated neon Guinness sign. The Thady's premises have been well painted.

Landscaping:

The most visible feature of Ventry under this heading is the green open spaces in the centre of the village; on adjudication day it was a pleasure to note that these are being maintained to a standard of excellence. Mature trees at a number of locations look well and make a strong visual statement and are complemented by stands of wild flowers on the verges of approach roads. Given the rugged and natural beauty of Ventry, it is appropriate that there is not the reliance on summer bedding plants and flower containers in general.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It was a pleasure to note that Ventry Quay and Strand was litter free and the interpretative panels at the Strand car park are both attractive and informative and enhance the understanding of Ventry and its environs. Congratulations on your Blue Flag status for the beach and well done. The Caravan Park was reasonably well presented. As noted above your outbreaks of wild flowers on the road edges particularly on the eastern entrance to Ventry and on the High Road are a visual treat.

Litter Control:

While the beach itself was litter free, some litter was noted in the beach car park which was a pity, however it was not a serious problem just the result perhaps of a large number of visitors on quite a nice day, perhaps the litter patrol at peak times would resolve this problem.

Waste Minimisation:

Your recycling initiative is worthwhile and should be adopted alongside a drive to audit the amount of waste generated by the community with a view to minimising the amount generated in addition to collecting and segregation of waste for recycling. Try to involve all sectors of the community in the waste audit: requesting households, the school, business interest, the farming interests etc to undertake an examination of the amount of waste produced by themselves. The Race Against Waste booklet included in this year's Tidy Towns pack contains a number of good ideas on this.

Tidiness:

Weed growth was a particular problem along the base of walls both on entrances from approach roads and throughout Ventry. The raised stone plinth on the main road facing the minor road to the Strand was overgrown with weeds and perhaps represents a lost opportunity to make a strong positive visual feature here. A number of weedy side areas and entrances were noted also.

Residential Areas:

New residential developments were noted at the eastern entrance to the village and are likely to be the catalyst for change in Ventry over the next few years. As noted above if new residents are assimilated into the social fabric of the community that could result in more hands on board the Tidy Towns initiative. Gardens to dwellings on the upper levels of the village were especially admired for the sweep of their grassed areas down to the roadside and its termination, by its well maintained stone boundary walls; this combination of simple grass and stone makes a strong positive visual impact. The small residential development located beside the school is neat and its green open spaces enjoy good maintenance.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Hopefully the stretch of stone wall on the eastern end of the village, which is breached, will be restored to its traditional manner. Road surfaces within the small estate beside the school and at other locations tend to be quite poor and the car parks of the three business premises are in need of resurfacing. Street furniture throughout the village was nicely presented. Hopefully your overhead service cables will be ducted in the not too distant future, thus giving an opportunity for resurfacing throughout the village centre

General Impression:

Ventry is a beautiful village with much to offer its own community and the travelling public in term of amenity. We wish you well in your future plans for the development of the village and look forward to many repeat visits.

