

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Finuge** Ref: **336**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **241**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **22/07/2006**  
**10/08/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>241</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Finuge is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included a planned work programme and which facilitated adjudication. Finuge is a tiny village located in a rural setting and has all the charm of a beautiful village without being overly prettified. Your excellent finger post signage for a variety of amenities in the area is admirable and pride of place must go to the Finuge Bog walk which boasts a map in the village centre. Perhaps finger post signage could be provided for the old burial grounds also. Your small committee can feel proud of what has been accomplished for Finuge over the last few years and your engagement with local schools is commendable together with the support you receive from various development agencies.

### **The Built Environment:**

Well done on work accomplished for 2006 which includes the restoration of a thatched cottage together with the reconstruction of dressing rooms at the sports field and maintenance of other established features. All buildings were beautifully presented which included O'Sullivan's, McCarthys, Teach Siamsa, the farm outbuildings with the site notice located on the road to the burial grounds have been noted and one wonders if a development has been planned for here, if so it will hopefully be an appropriate development. The two beer signs should be removed from McCarthys Bar.

### **Landscaping:**

Your Memorial Garden to Sean McCarthy Balladeer and Poet is beautifully landscaped and well positioned in the village centre. The Marion Shrine is an attractive feature also the boundary wall of the GAA grounds were noted for the excellence of their landscaping. Stands of mature pine trees at the burial grounds look quite magnificent and are complemented by landscaping here, other trees noted in this area were silver birch and

some beach and hawthorn saplings. The burial grounds looked well with their stone wall enclosure.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The Bog Walk with its clear map and direction signs is a wonderful amenity and one that the adjudicator would like to undertake at a future visit. Your wildlife garden has been noted also. The trimming of a roadside verge to its outside edge allowing the inside edge to display wild grasses and flowers is an excellent initiative as it provides a greater diversity within the village for wildlife habitats. Your bird boxes have been noted we wish you well in your plans for the nature reserve at the Old Quarry.

### **Litter Control:**

Well done to the children of Killocrin primary school for their help in the clean up operation. The installation for reminder signs regarding litter control is useful also. The overall appearance of Finuge was one of a litter free village however the litter bin located to the roadside of the utility station was broken and in need of refurbishment.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

We note your intention to work with the refuse collection services and your plan to locate larger bins/bring bank at a strategic area in the village. It is important to provide recycling facilities for the community and in addition it is important to try to identify ways in which the total amount of waste generated by the all sectors of the community can be reduced, perhaps an information evening for the community with a talk by the Environmental Awareness Officer of Kerry County Council would be fruitful and show the way ahead.

### **Tidiness:**

The overall appearance of Finuge was one of tidiness however a few weedy verges were in evidence on the day of adjudication. Work in progress to a site behind a thatched cottage which is located on the main street was slightly problematic, of greater significance was the unsightly growth along verges at the speed limit sign on one road to the crossroads to the village centre and its visual impact on the copper coloured young trees here.

### **Residential Areas:**

Flower displays in the gardens of dwellings on Kilacrin Road were admired as were stretches of high hedgerow on top of stone boundary walls to some dwellings. A number of roadside areas to boundary walls looked poor and need to be improved either by being grassed or by resurfacing. The thatched cottages are charming and in fact the Teach Siamsa development looks really well. The majority of residential properties are presented to a high standard.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

One of your nicest features under this heading was the well painted timber field gates which had been painted a soft red and which made a strong positive impact. Roadside verges enjoy excellent maintenance and are complemented by stands of semi-mature trees and neat hedgerow. The old style nameplates were admired also. Flower displays and the lack of wirescape at the car park of Pairc O'Suilleabain enhanced the presentation here, no doubt the car parking area itself will be resurfaced in due course. Street furniture was well presented in most cases with the exception of the road to the burial ground which was potholed.

### **General Impression:**

The impact of speeding traffic and an increase volume of traffic on the quality of life in Finuge is appreciated by the adjudicators and the challenge this presents the Tidy Towns Committee. A lot has been achieved for the village in a short space of time notwithstanding the many constraints on your preferred plans, your small group of active volunteers are to be commended and thanked.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

It was heartening to witness the newly thatched cottage looking so well on this focal point. The adjacent

footpath and wall should be finished in traditional style. The village colour was not as forceful as other years and we wonder if the hot summer was a deterrent to the flowers. Some of the wall top planting needs refurbishment to reach the standard of previous years. The Teach Cheoil would benefit from some improved landscaping. Also the roadside garden was not as well kept as other years. Despite the fast thru traffic the village retains its rural ethos and the small forestry on the road leading to the village is a haven of wildlife. Litter control was good and most side and rear entrances are well presented. Some of previous year's work, especially the street furniture needs fresh painting and you should tackle this for next year. An other very good performance by Finuge, but you need to raise your standard in the areas outlined above.