

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Firies** Ref: **267**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **200**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **21/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	29
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>200</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Firies is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission. We note the absence of a work planned programme and urge you to prepare one to give you a focus for your activities over the next few years in the competition. Firies is located on a busy road with high volumes of through traffic against a scenic backdrop of mountains. The committee of ten has been successful to date in presenting the village to a high standard given the limitations imposed by through traffic and are too be commended for the involvement of business interests. The national schools and the support achieved to date by the County Council and the ESB we wish you well in your plans for the future.

### **The Built Environment:**

St. Gertrude's Church is a beautiful building and was particularly admired in respect of its unusual roof which is a most attractive feature. Both the school and its grounds were nicely presented and business premises looked well also including Pat Sheahans and Ulick Sullivans. Well done on the removal of the ESB pole from the village centre and the installation of new lighting. Your bilingual signage has also been noted. We wish you well on your completion of your planned projects which include road resurfacing at the cemetery together with the documenting of old graves and the development of a footbridge.

### **Landscaping:**

The planting of young trees at numerous locations around the village is an excellent initiative which if they establish themselves and thrive will provide a wonderful heritage for future generations. The stand of mature pine trees located across from the school are a present day environmental heritage. Grassed roadside verges were a little overgrown and untidy. You should try to maintain the verges from the crossroads to the

nameplates neatly trimmed during the growing season, at least along their outside edges. In future planting schemes give preference to native species that will provide wildlife habitats.

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

We note from your submission that your river provides wildlife habitats for a variety of birds, heron, duck and waterhen and that you feature wildlife areas on your Golden Mile. Perhaps you might display a wildlife interpretative panel and install wildlife viewing areas to heighten awareness and appreciation of wildlife within the community and for the benefit of visitors. Your footbridge over the river or a new bridge with a path is an excellent proposal as is your proposed survey of indigenous trees in a number of areas in the village.

#### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was excellent at the time of our visits; well done. We note from your submission that you participate in the National Spring Clean Day and are involved in a number of follow up activities, please keep us informed of these as they can earn you additional marks under this heading. Perhaps a sign informing through traffic that car registration numbers will be taken where litter is thrown out of cars and dumped into hedges and penalties will accrue will go some way to resolving this problem.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

We wish you every success in your application for Green Flag status by the school, this will be a wonderful achievement. Your compost initiative should go along way in reducing waste and of course provide valuable fertiliser for flower displays. Continue to consult your local authority in relation to community composting to ensure you don't breach any environmental regulations in this area. To do really well under this heading, you could undertake a waste audit to identify the amount of waste produced and work to minimise it in addition to collecting for recycling. The Race Against Waste booklet included in this year's Tidy Towns pack contains a number of good ideas on this.

#### **Tidiness:**

Congratulations on the removal of unattractive service poles. Weedy kerbs were a feature throughout the village so it appears that not much progress has been made in this regard. Is the overgrown site, located behind the telephone kiosk, for development soon? And that of the site beside which features outbuildings? Work in progress was noted at another site however the latter was being maintained in a tidy manner with no overspill into the public realm.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Your bilingual namestones for new residential developments have been noted and admired. Hopefully residents associations of various estates will take responsibility for the maintenance of their own areas particularly in respect of weed growth and maintenance of green open spaces. At the time of adjudication the roads had not yet been finish in a new estate and the green area of an other had not been landscaped.

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

Well done of resurfacing of most roads through the village. No doubt the remaining roads will be done in the not too distant future, together with car parking pull in areas. Lampstandards are an attractive feature and the absence of overhead wirescape gives a nice finish to the overall appearance of Firies. Street furniture was nicely presented including new bollards, seating and tree guards. Reveal stretches of old stone wall of the growth as much as possible and refurbish were necessary to highlight the beauty of craftsmanship of these.

#### **General Impression:**

The overall impression of Firies is one of a vibrant community with old and new community groups who are coming together to present their village in an environmentally friendly way. We look forward to charting your future progress in the competition.

