

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Waterville** Ref: **352**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **224**
Category: **B** Date(s): **23/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	27
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	224

Overall Development Approach:

Waterville is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which was helpful in the adjudication process. Waterville enjoys a coastal location overlooking Ballinskelligs Bay with wonderful views of the Skelligs. It is also located on the Ring of Kerry and the Kerry Way and has much to offer in terms of amenity development as a result of its location and setting. We note the absence of a planned work programme and encourage you to prepare one as this will give your Tidy Towns activities a stronger focus and guide your progress in the competition over the next few years. It may also help you to motivate people to take an active interest in the development of their village as it could provide a vision to work towards.

The Built Environment:

The majority of buildings are well painted and indeed beautifully presented. The Butler Arms Hotel is very large complex and looks particularly well together with other well presented hotels. The Garda Station is nicely presented also as is the Fisherman's Bar with its attractive shop front, its traditional sash windows and its upper storeys of stone. Both the Craft Village and the Holiday Village were admired also. The Cooma Vista features an unattractive gable wall which is in need of attention and a number of plastic protruding signs should be removed including the oversized sign for The Lodge Hotel. The Catholic Church building is attractive however its weather stained walls might be cleaned and or painted.

Landscaping:

Grassed areas are being nicely maintained, is the pergola to be planted? If so perhaps a combination of summer flowering climbing plant together with a winter flowering plant or other for winter interest might be

suitable. Climbing plants are suggested for the wire mesh of the Builders Supplies and Hardware Yards. Young trees are a nice feature of Ard Aobhinn. We note your plans for the planting of spring bulbs together with trees in a Council estate and other locations around Waterville. Give preference to native species of trees and shrubs, as these will support wildlife.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Outbursts of Ox-eyedaisies looked wonderful at a number of locations on approach roads and entrances. Other wild flowering plants included Montebretia, Fuchsia and Cordyline. Your greatest natural amenity is of course your beach which looked very well and your Shore Walk which was being enjoyed by many walkers. We look forward to your planned installation of appropriate wildlife signs in a number of areas in order to heighten awareness and appreciation of wildlife for the broader community.

Litter Control:

Litter control was very good on the day of adjudication, there was a very light scattering of litter throughout but this was incidental rather than being a problem. Well done on the removal of fifteen bags of rubbish and litter from the beach during the National Spring Clean Week and on the May clean up of the village also. No doubt your plan to introduce the Litter Warden initiative into the National school will serve to improve on your good standard of litter control.

Waste Minimisation:

We note your Community Bin Initiative which facilitates those who wish to dispose of both domestic and recyclable waste and this is a wonderful facility to offer. In order to perform well under this heading it is desirable that you undertake a waste audit in conjunction with all sectors of the community to measure the amount of waste actually generated with a view to reducing it substantially; this initiative can be run along side the provision of recycling facilities.

Tidiness:

Weed growth was a difficulty particularly along walls in corners and inside areas, a number of untidy sides and back areas were noted also. We note from your submission that you plan to take responsibility from Kerry County Council for the maintenance of your green areas and verges and wish you well in this initiative. At the time of adjudication green areas were beautifully maintained. We wish you every success in the ducting of overhead service cables.

Residential Areas:

The Ard Aobhinn residential estate is an attractive development and is nicely landscaped. The holiday homes are attractive also. Well done on your painting of houses and boundary walls and general maintenance. Encourage residents to take responsibility for the roadside area to their boundary walls also.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Roadside areas to the boundary wall of a large site located before the nameplate just before the southern entrance looked quite poor, is this a development site? If so encourage the developer to upgrade this area upon completion of works. The footpath along the green is quite well surfaced and stone walls throughout the town are an attractive feature. Many stretches of road surface together with hard shoulders are in need of resurfacing together with curtilage areas such as the one at the Post Office, the road surface on the Ard Aobhinn Road is poor also. Street furniture is generally well presented.

General Impression:

Waterville is a town which enjoys an excellent setting and hinterland and has a high amenity status, the town is going through a transition period and experiencing a lot of growth, hopefully the committee can channel this growth in a constructive way to improve the overall appearance and amenity status of the town and enhance your performance in the Tidy Towns Competition.

