

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Firies** Ref: **267**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **204**
Category: **B** Date(s): **25/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	29
The Built Environment	50	25
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	26
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	204

Overall Development Approach:

Firies is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission. The Best Estate competition is a wonderful idea. We wish you well on your endeavour to retain the old bridge through your work with the KCC.

The Built Environment:

Church of St Germaine was generally tidy however the grass was a bit long and required cutting. The school was well painted and it was refreshing to see a large expanse of green play area instead of over concreting. The Community Centre was well painted and maintained but some landscaping or potted plants would help brighten up the building.

Landscaping:

The tree plantings in Firies close are a welcome addition and as well as appealing aesthetically also assist in retaining the natural environment. The new lamp posts were admired and are a welcome addition. Plantings around the oil tank to hide the tank at the National School would improve the look of the play area. Inclusion of a bench at the revitalised area beside the river would make this an area to relax for residents.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The new school garden that is at the start of development will be a wonderful educational experience for children as well as promoting wildlife in the area. We look forward to its completion. Your work to clean up the area around the river will assist in keeping this a natural asset to the town. The area beside the river is very well done. Continuation to remove weeds and overgrowth on the river bank would be of further benefit.

Litter Control:

The collection of litter each walk is good initiative to combine both a social setting, health and reducing litter. Well done on this. We also congratulate you on your 2nd May Village clean up. The area around the Bring Bank was quite untidy on the day of adjudication with rubble to the side of the bins and a bit of rubbish in the vicinity. The car park was otherwise well maintained.

Waste Minimisation:

Congratulations in the achievement of the National School in gaining a Green Flag. The compost bin in the garden at the school was appreciated. A communal compost or the supplying individual homes with compost bins would assist in reducing waste and the County Council has undertaken this elsewhere and may be able to assist. It was good to note that all rubbish collected during the Spring Clean up is segregated and that all your residents recycling their domestic waste.

Tidiness:

The car park in front of the school requires a bit of weeding. Generally businesses and residences are well maintained. The main issue is with weeds which are prominent in the estates, the main street and the school. There are also some derelict buildings that require attention. There is an overgrown grass area in one of the estates that requires slashing. However, it is noted that this area may be being built on soon.

Residential Areas:

The setting up residential management committee is a wonderful initiative to help residents manage their own environment and encourage proactive maintenance. The new Greenfields estate has been very tasteful undertaken and the inclusion of wood in the buildings and walls assist in retaining the natural feel of the environment. The traditional aspect of the town is also retained through the use of stone in the walls of the development and the paving stone paths. The residences of Firies Close and Firies Drive were well maintained however some of the street guttering requires weeding and some grass areas were a bit overgrown. It is noted that you have been undertaking much work to retain the green areas of the estate and this has had a positive effect on the area. The estates are very green and natural looking and provide a very liveable environment. The dual language signage is very well done and it is good to see this being applied.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Your work to clean the bridge and approach road from Dingle has had a good impact on first impressions when entering the village. The street seating and the new kerbing and footpath paving are very pleasant and add atmosphere to the area. Well done on this. Generally roads and surfaces are maintained however the area out the front of the school requires paving.

General Impression:

Firies is an appealing and very well kept town in an area of natural beauty. However, the overall appearance is let down by problems with weeds and a couple of derelict buildings. Completion of new developments will also assist in the overall appeal. The use of stone and timber throughout has ensured the village has retained a very natural feel in its rural setting. Well done on this. We look forward to the work you are undertaking to increase nature into the school.