

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Lauragh** Ref: **344**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **214**
Category: **A** Date(s): **13/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	3
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	214

Overall Development Approach:

Lauragh is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission. Although it is commendable that you have a development plan and recommendation for all our towns, your application form referred to this plan to understand what had taken place. However, it is difficult to ascertain from this exactly what work is proposed and what work has been completed since your 2006 entry. Although work might be scheduled for a particular year within a plan it cannot be assumed it actually took place. To ensure that you receive full benefit for the all activities undertaken in the past year it is worthwhile listing them in the application. It can just be brief description on what you have completed and then refer to the plan for further detail if required. This was done on some but not all of the sections. It is good to see you working closely with the school and other prominent community members as part of Tidy Towns.

The Built Environment:

The refurbishment of the Garda station has been a very successful undertaking. At the time of adjudication it had not opened as yet and development was still taking place on the grounds at the rear of the building. The restoration of the limekiln looks very well and is great to see you preserving historic structures in your village. Signage explaining the history and operation of the kiln would be beneficial to this site. The revealing of the stone walls adds to the natural beauty of the town and is another well undertaken task.

Landscaping:

The grounds of the Garda station were still being undertaken at the time of adjudication but the initial plantings and grass area look well. The bog garden at the school is an interesting and educational feature. The landscaping at the front of the community centre is well planted and brightens up the simple building. However weeding needs to take place both here and in the front area of the school. The front area of the school is also all very hard landscaped. It would be good to see a grass area here.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The creation of the bog garden at the school is a good achievement. It would be beneficial to both school children and tourists to perhaps create a nature walk through some of the wonderful outdoor space that you have. This can incorporate signs to educate walkers on the different flora and fauna species.

Litter Control:

Lauragh is a very clean village and the only rubbish that was noticed was one piece in a car park so well done on keeping the town so clean. It is noted that you participate in the National Spring Clean which is a great tool to ensure an annual clean up involving various community members takes place.

Waste Minimisation:

On the day of adjudication the area surrounding the bring bank was clean. However, three of the bins were completely full. It was queried in the application form in relation to the score for this category received last year. Leaflets promoting composting to households was definitely a beneficial undertaking in this area. However, this is a new and growing category and most towns are at the early stages of the process. The focus is on actively working towards ensuring all households, government bodies, schools and community organisations recycle as much as possible including food waste. It is also working towards a reduce, rather than just recycle objective. This might mean undertakings such as children's lunches being packed in reusable lunch boxes instead of disposable bags. The score is therefore not meant to be seen as a negative, but instead regarded as an opportunity to explore new areas of reducing waste. This is a much needed objective in the general populous, not just in Lauragh and we are looking forward to being able to mark all towns higher scores as we move towards a more sustainable future.

Tidiness:

Generally the Lauragh is a very Tidy Town. However one area that does let it down is the surrounding of the community centre. It would do well to let some grass areas grow here rather than just hard landscape but work needs to be done to either remove the overgrowing weeds on the tarmac or landscape the area. This might be a project that can be undertaken as a whole community working bee.

Residential Areas:

The appearance of residential areas in Lauragh was quite a high and residents should be applauded for keeping their homes in good upkeep.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

It is noted that you are hoping to have the car parks near the church resurfaced in 2008. The general state of the roads is good.

General Impression:

Lauragh is a lovely tranquil village set in a beautiful surrounding, The projects undertaken have a real community feel about them and it is good to see a strong community in operation.