

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Annascaul**

Ref: **989**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **248**

Category: **B**

Date(s): **24/06/2013**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2012 | Mark Awarded 2013 |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Overall Development Approach | 50 | 0 | 35 |
| The Built Environment | 50 | 0 | 30 |
| Landscaping | 50 | 0 | 40 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50 | 0 | 22 |
| Litter Control | 50 | 0 | 38 |
| Sustainable Waste And Resource Management | 20 | 0 | 8 |
| Tidiness | 30 | 0 | 16 |
| Residential Areas | 40 | 0 | 25 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 50 | 0 | 27 |
| General Impression | 10 | 0 | 7 |
| TOTAL MARK | 400 | 0 | 248 |

Overall Development Approach:

Annascaul is most welcome back to the 2013 National Tidy Towns Competition after a ten year absence. Thank you for your application which included the comprehensively completed application form, some photographs and a village map with a numbered legend which was of great assistance to the adjudicator. Your committee of six with twelve to fifteen volunteers has undertaken a substantial number of tasks for a small group. Well done on the preparation of your three year plan and on having four workers assigned to the Tidy Towns. You work well with other interested bodies and agencies such as Kerry County Council, South Kerry Partnership, An Taisce and your school. Your committee uses local media outlets such as the newsletter, Facebook and the school to communicate with the broader community.

The Built Environment:

Annascaul is a long linear village with the majority of commercial building dispersed along the Main Street, set against a dramatic, mountainous backdrop. Commercial buildings at the elevated end of the village have some very fine presentations such as Inspiration Lodge, Gala, Falveys, Hanafins and Annascaul Pottery. At the centre junction Teach Seain, Tigin na Gruaige, Patcheen O'Domhnaills and, opposite, O'Ceinneides and the Post Office were admired. The iconic Dan Foleys is now closed. Its fame has spread because of the postcard and many visitors seek it out. Your group should try and ensure that the frontage is kept fresh. The South Pole pub is excellent and this high profile premises, close by the bridge, is very well presented. The Sacred Heart Church has a fine presentation on mature grounds with well-manicured lawn areas enclosed by attractive gates and railings. Your school was proudly flying the Green Flag and the colourful window boxes were admired here.

Landscaping:

Both the Tom Crean and Jerome Connor parks have a very good standard of maintenance and your FAS workers were busy attending to these areas during the adjudication. Information boards are well displayed and interesting. The old road portion is atmospheric and has some fine stone walls. The threshold landscape treatment of a nearby cottage was admired here. At the nearby roadside, the recycled E.S.B. reels, planted with red geraniums, was innovative and adds a welcoming splash of colour. Generally, landscaped areas throughout the village are well maintained and have a good standard. A highlight is the river park at the side of the South Pole pub.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We note that you have sought assistance from your rural development officer and Leader to develop a river trail and that you have also reached agreement with a number of landowners. It is good to hear that your school proposes to carry out a wildlife survey. We look forward to the results of this initiative.

Litter Control:

Well done on your weekly litter patrols and on participating in the National Spring Clean. These efforts are obviously paying dividends as the village was litter free on the day of adjudication.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

Well done on your participation in the Green Homes initiative. You have commenced segregation of your waste and use Kerry County Council's recycling plant. The Men's Shed project sounds interesting and provides a very useful service.

Tidiness:

Surfaces on the back road are rough in places and verge cutting is a little uneven. The new stone wall, plant boxes and footpath will look very well when completed. The old Palace Dancehall looks a little sad. There must be great history and stories attached to this building. Maybe a story board would be considered? Cleaning had commenced at the Anna Gap railway building. One house looked very derelict and unsightly at the Ballynacourty Road.

Residential Areas:

Individual residences in the village have some very nice threshold presentations at their forecourts and show a lot of flair. One in particular has a traditional cobbled layout and was admired. A beautifully presented street house and a back lands house located opposite the Community Care centre looked great. Housing at Ballynacourty remains to be completed. This scheme would benefit from a name sign. Both Brackloon and Lios na gCraobh are well maintained and a number of individual garden presentations were admired there.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Dingle and Tralee roads have a good quality, good surface and clear markings. The cycle lanes are an impressive feature and grass margins were well maintained. The New Road (back) was a little uneven in maintenance but it was noticed that improvements were in progress here. The Ballynacourty Road had strands of wild flowers in the outer areas but is in need of enhancement closer to the village.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Annascaul is of a village where the pride of the residents is obvious in the many colourful displays of flower tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes located throughout the village. Well done to all involved! We wish you well in your future endeavours.