

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Currow**

Ref: **897**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **299**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **19/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	41	41
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	35	36
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	39	39
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	31	31
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	15	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	66	66
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	33	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	36	36
TOTAL MARK	450	296	299

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Thank you for the Currow multi-annual Tidy Towns Plan and sketch map both of which were helpful in adjudication and welcome to the 2017 SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition, it was a pleasure to adjudicate your charming village. The map whilst clear and helpful should have projects colour-coded in addition to being linked numerically to details on the map. Community involvement in Currow is very strong judging by the numbers on the Tidy Towns committee and volunteers available to help on projects. The relationship with the Youth Club and school is fruitful too. Well established links with a good mix of parties interested in the development of the village will ensure support on future projects. Currow's 20 year+ participation in the competition is appreciated, we enjoy our visits.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

Hopefully the large premises and its curtilage area at the river which is for sale will see redevelopment soon and make an important contribution to the overall appearance of Currow. The Post Office and adjoining premises across the way looks well as do most premises within the village, the support from property owners is evident in the appearance of the built environment. The Community Centre and the adjacent Old Forge are attractive elements of Currow. General maintenance throughout the village is excellent. Hopefully the upgrading of the footpath near the lake will be completed to the satisfaction of the whole community, repairs to the footpath towards the Grotto are noted.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The lake amenity development at one end of the village with landscaping, seating, gazebo and memorial stone has strong visual appeal and favourably marks this entrance to Currow. Landscaping in the church grounds is admirable. The working relationship with the school on their garden is commendable, this is an invaluable investment in the future life of the community. Flower displays throughout the village were admired both in containers and beds. We note planting for Spring colour from your photographs, do you plant for Winter colour and interest too? Trees and shrubs should be part of your planting programme in addition to flowers. Where possible choose native species to support bio-diversity. It is good to note the maintenance of planted areas especially young trees throughout the winter; keep us up-dated on the maintenance aspect of your landscaping also.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádúrtha:

Landscaping at the access point to the river has matured nicely. Some seating on the riverbank would be a welcome addition. The lake is a wonderful natural amenity offering habitats to a variety of wildfowl and other birds;

its perimeter fencing could be painted, do continue to keep a watchful eye on the water quality of the lake. Field boundaries to roadsides left in their natural state also provide valuable wildlife habitats, has an assessment of their bio-diversity status been considered? Well done on the maintenance of the old and new graveyards. A site beside the recycling point which appears to be managed for wildlife looks very overgrown and some non-native species are noted, perhaps an interpretive panel here would be appropriate. Keep us up-dated on the success (or otherwise) of your new approach to keeping weeds down and provide us with details of the chemical used. Congratulations on the (almost) total eradication of Japanese Knotweed.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

The recycling point is being nicely maintained thanks to the support of the RSS local scheme. Congratulations to the pupils and their teachers of Scoil Mhuire agus Naomh Treasa on their fourth Green Flag, this is a fine achievement. It is good to note the installation of the two water butts at the kitchen for watering plants grown from seed and water drawn from the river for flower displays and general landscaping. Can you put a figure on savings in water? If so let us have it for next year; a suitable energy saving project should now be undertaken and results quantified. Projects that prevent waste at source are better at attracting marks than recycling alone.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Litter control is very good in Currow, weed control a little less so particularly along road edges/kerbs. The involvement of Youth Club members and the pupils of the National School in litter control is laudable and it is great to know that the problem is diminishing. No doubt litter is segregated for recycling. Overhead service cables are visually obtrusive to a certain extent, have enquiries been made as to the possibility of having these ducted?

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

The Parkmore estate looks well and is beautifully landscaped however, one or two premises need attention to their roadside facade and boundary wall. A name plate should be provided for the beautifully landscaped residential development opposite the lake (Lake View?) however some stretches of kerb are quite weedy. Most roadside boundary walls to dwellings enjoy good maintenance.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

The entrance to Currow at the Farranfore end of the village which features natural field boundaries, good road surface, good footpath, nice bridge walls with hanging baskets and old nameplates which are quite charming is an excellent introduction to the village. Recently refurbished road surfaces had yet to be lined at the time of adjudication. Hopefully the footpath out by the lake will be refurbished soon. Finger post signs were not noted perhaps due to road works?

Concluding Remarks:

Currow is a charming village with fine amenity features and a cohesive community with a strong commitment to their natural environment.