

Tidy Towns Competition 2017

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Finuge**

Ref: **336**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **260**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **12/06/2017**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2016	Mark Awarded 2017
Community Involvement & Planning	60	33	35
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	31	33
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	31	35
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	12	20
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12	17
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	54	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31	32
TOTAL MARK	450	234	260

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome to the 2017 SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition and thank you for your continued participation and excellent performance over the past twenty years, it is always a pleasure to visit Finuge. Your plan and map are acknowledged and were helpful. The inclusion of the Junior Tidy Towns group on the committee is a good training ground for future committee members and volunteers and your strong working relationship with both schools auger well for the future of Tidy Towns in Finuge. Having the Parish website available to you is excellent and noted also is the varied array of traditional communication methods. It is wonderful to witness the difference the Tidy Towns has made to the appearance of the village and the pride of the community in their lovely village.

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

All aspects of the presentation of an Rinceoir were admired; the building, sculpture, grounds, signage, and flower displays combine to give a delightful visual experience; the sculpture is a particularly fine piece of public art. Work accomplished for this year's presentation on the thatched cottage (lime wash) and the un-occupied dwellings is applauded together with new seating, gates and fencing and of course the power-hosing of the bridge. A lot of work for a small number of people in a single season!

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Container flower displays throughout Finuge (hanging baskets) on buildings are a nice touch; planted beds are charming also for their colour and design. Planting so many trees (30) and hedgerow is a fine achievement that will yield permanent and increasing rewards with the passage of time. Grassed verges have not been neglected either nor the bees forgotten with their careful management. The Millennium Garden is charming with flower displays and seated areas, lots of mature and semi mature trees and hedgerow in addition to recently planted saplings.

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

Well done on the special report on invasive species and work to date (Japanese Knotweed) on its implementation, this is invaluable for managing the biodiversity of Finuge. It is good to note the proposed setting of the field beside the Millennium Garden as a wildflower meadow, all involved deserve our appreciation. The planned Wildflower and Bio-Diversity walk in August will no doubt be a great success, make sure to update us on this in next year's entry. Congratulations on accessing expert advice on a variety of wildlife matters. The sports grounds have a very neat and attractive roadside boundary and the car park has recently been resurfaced. Your participation in the National Pollination Plan is laudable, we look forward to future results, is there a junior pollination project also? It is fascinating to note that Finuge is home to 20% of the country's Whooper Swan population during the winter months.

Perhaps the school children can do a species count of visiting birds to the newly installed nesting boxes as part of their studies? We look forward to the bio-diversity plans to be prepared for the village by both schools.

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

Congratulations to the National School pupils on their Green Flag success and their work towards a third Green Flag. Well done also on your liaison around the recycling and composting programme; energy and water conservation projects are noteworthy for their invaluable contribution to savings and heightening awareness. The Finuge community as a whole should plan to become self-sufficient in rainwater harvesting for watering all plants and landscaped areas. The committee's composting area for use with public planting is noted favourably.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Work accomplished for vacant buildings (noted above) is time and money well spent in its positive visual impact. Street furniture is presented to a high standard including its signs. The Finuge community deserve to feel proud of the litter free status of the village; involvement in the National Spring Clean no doubt plays a significant part in heightening awareness and combined with regular litter picks gives a total litter free result. Material collected should be analysed to identify its source, type, location and frequency to enable an appropriate litter strategy to be formulated which may eventually reduce the amount to be picked.

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

Residential properties enjoy excellent maintenance and presentation and the thatched cottage was particularly admired. It is good to note that residents were asked to pay particular attention to shed and outhouses also and not just to dwellings; roadside boundary walls are equally important. Many gardens were admired for the beauty of their design and maintenance.

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

If the village is not signposted from the N69 it should be. Your adjudicator had some difficulty finding Finuge this year notwithstanding several visits over the past twenty years! Perhaps I missed a signpost? Nameplates for the village are very good and clear and the Drive Slowly signs appreciated. Road surfaces are good also and all well lined. Recently painted field gates are a nice touch as of course are seated amenity areas on the main thoroughfare near the crossroads.

Concluding Remarks:

Finuge is a delight to visit on any occasion and particularly for adjudication purposes where one gets to 'see behind the scenes' and marvel at all the work accomplished by a few for the benefit of us all.