

Tidy Towns Competition 2019

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Finuge - Fionnúige** Ref: **336**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **284**
Category: **A** Date(s): **12/06/2019**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2018 | Mark Awarded 2019 |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Community – Your Planning and Involvement | 60 | 40 | 40 |
| Streetscape & Public Places | 60 | 35 | 36 |
| Green Spaces and Landscaping | 60 | 36 | 37 |
| Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality | 50 | 22 | 23 |
| Sustainability – Doing more with less | 50 | 18 | 20 |
| Tidiness and Litter Control | 90 | 58 | 60 |
| Residential Streets & Housing Areas | 50 | 32 | 33 |
| Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes | 50 | 34 | 35 |
| TOTAL MARK | 470 | 275 | 284 |

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Cuireann an moltóir seo fáilte roimh Finuge Fionnuige páirt a ghlacadh i gComórtas Náisiúnta SuperValu na mBailte Slachtmhara 2019.

This adjudicator is quite surprised to read that in a community of 100 population, you have 15 committee members who have the support of another ten volunteers. That is one quarter of the community and we doubt if it could be matched anywhere else in the country. Well done. You are well supported by Kerry County Council and other agencies within the county and you use newspapers, newsletters and parish bulletins for communication. You have a school liaison officer that works with the two national schools and there is a Junior Tidy Towns Committee with representation on your committee. That is a great achievement. We are pleased to note that participation in the competition engenders a greater sense of community and encouraged more social interaction. Many thanks for attaching a map of the area with project locations marked for our attention and some photographs. However, since the adjudicator is not familiar with your community, it is important to include landmarks and direction indicators, so we know where to find them. It is great that you have a multi-annual plan because it is not possible to achieve everything in one year and it is good to aim for targets over a period of years. May we suggest that it be reformatted to indicate when the various projects will be implemented.

Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

You have provided a list of six improvement works under this heading which includes agricultural machinery, new flower boxes, a notice board at Finuge Cross, new tarmacadam in front of the wall at Teach Siamsa and in front of the shed at the cross and the removal of pallets in favour of flower boxes. McCarthy's Bar looks very well with its blue colour and several hanging baskets on front. The seats (old church pews) looked inviting. The area was clean and tidy. The raised site beside McCarthys with agricultural machinery was very interesting. The small statue and plaque to Sean McCarthy was well done and the few plants on the outside add enhancement. The sign was full of information on Sean McCarthy and Sheehan's thatched cottage which looked very well with the whitewashed walls and red and white flowers in window boxes. Teach Siamsa is in fine condition and has a tribute to Martin Whelan, founding member of Siamsa Tire. We admired the stainless steel Rincoir sculpture.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

Finuge is fortunate to have a wealth of trees and hedgerows all around the village. That is very important because trees are long lasting and provide the main structure of the landscape. Items mentioned in your application include maintaining grass margins in the village and this you do very well, although we suggest that you select some areas where you change the mowing regime to allow more wildflowers to develop. The grassed area at Siamsa Tire would have enough space for some wildflowers. Planting whitethorn hedging is continuing the tradition of Irish

hedgerows. Well done on maintaining the flower beds but we suggest that you do not need timber edging.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

There is a rich natural area surrounding your community and it is important to promote an awareness of its many traits and to map these habitats. You have focused on seminars, walks, bee-friendly plants, bird boxes and you have some areas dedicated for wild natural habitats. Habitats of value include specimen trees, hedgerows, treelines, streams, woodlands and wetlands. Try to list the plants and animals to be found there and recognise their significance (native, protected, or alien invasive?). This information can be fun to gather and can involve the schools or other interested parties. Raise awareness through holding events such as hedgerow walks or bat walks. Contact the Irish Wildlife Trust for more information.

Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:

This category is about tackling the growing waste mountain that is creating problems of pollution, unwanted land use, and the use of dwindling resources. It is a global and a local problem. To save the Earth we need to move quickly to a zero-waste society.

The emphasis here really needs to be on reducing the volume of waste produced rather than recycling (which is taken for granted). At this level of the contest the adjudicator wants to see innovation in tackling bigger issues of food waste, plastic disposal and energy use. You mentioned an impressive list of actions under this heading. These include using rainwater for plants, segregating collected waste, making better use of public transport, recycling facilities for bottles and clothes, composting, solar panels on your clubhouse, an outdoor tap for refilling water bottles and you have worked with the local primary school in their successful pursuit of their 6th Green Flag, this time for climate change. All of these activities are most appropriate. Some more ideas to consider are....

- One third of our waste is organic in nature, such as grass clippings. You can avoid collecting mown grass by more frequent cutting and using mulching mowers which shred the clippings and facilitate faster decomposition.
- Using self-watering hanging baskets to reduce the amount of water used and also the task of watering.
- Working with retailers to cut down on packaging, reminding people to re-use shopping bags and encouraging the re-use of coffee mugs at school and at work.
- In response to an overuse of chemicals for weed control, many useful products of the past are no longer available and therefore communities are encouraged to use other means such as hoeing to maintain weeds.

In some cases, allowing wildflowers to develop is an acceptable alternative. These activities will highlight the fact that you are focussing on this category and when you develop more projects in the future your marks will increase. For more helpful tips and case studies from other Tidy Towns entrants please take a look at <http://localprevention.ie/tidy-towns/>

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You are very active in keeping Finuge looking its best by daily attention to litter, painting signposts, a bottle bank at the sportsfield, painting farm gates, removing posters and cleaning footpaths. You also work with local schools on environmental awareness and protection and students from both schools assist in the weekly litter picking. All of that is great activity and Finuge is looking the better for it. Well done.

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

Well done on painting the four vacant houses in the village. Private houses in the village and approach roads are all in good condition and well-maintained. Some have gone to extra trouble to plant flowers in their gardens and in plant containers outside their boundary walls.

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

Approaches on the R557 are very nice with a selection of trees and hedges and a very attractive stone wall. The grass margins are well-maintained. Closer to Finuge Cross, on the approach from Lixnaw, red painted gates caught our eye.

Concluding Remarks:

Well done on maintaining Finuge as a lovely and interesting place to visit. Keep up the good work.