

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Caherdaniel** Ref: **1451**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **208**
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/07/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	34
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	29
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	28
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	8
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	40
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	27
TOTAL MARK	450	208

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Céad fáilte roimh Choiste Pobail Chathair Dhónaill go comórtas SuperValu TidyTowns na bliana 2015. Nára laga Dia sibh. First time out deserves a special welcome. May you spend many years in this competition and one is confident that your involvement in TidyTowns, the work that happens as a result of being involved in the competition, the friendships that are made and the community spirit that develops from people caring for their beautiful village will be of benefit to village and people alike. Another by-product of involvement in the TidyTowns competition is that you will make contact with village and towns that have similar issues to deal with as you. Entering the competition for the first time is a major, brave step and now you have overcome the doubts that are natural you are on your way. Thank you for your completed entry form, the map and the supplementary material. That extra page spoke volumes about the main issues that frustrate you. Your map is a blessing, coloured and enumerated to assist the adjudicator. You must get in touch with Kerry County Council. No village can act alone without the assistance of the agencies whose decisions shape the village, the consequences of which you must then live with. Make yourselves aware of what other agencies are relevant to your needs. TidyTowns values worthwhile, meaningful contact with the local school. By next year appoint a liaison with the school. Remember that Rome took a while to build, Caherdaniel took centuries to shape. Your impact may require patience to endure frustration. The fruits of your labour may not be immediate. But good luck.

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

The main elements of the built environment of Caherdaniel are the Church, the school, the Community Centre, the GAA complex, the hostel and the premises on the street. The whole area of the Church and the Community Centre looks splendid, a fresh tidy appearance to the buildings and their surroundings. The same can be said of the school and the GAA area. Your hostel has the traditional hostel appearance and looks inviting. The premises are vital to the attraction of this village. There are problems with that whole business area of the village. The Junk Shop has to appear like a Junk Shop, as it does, but that idea needs to be examined. Freddie's needs a make over. Those hanging baskets are dated. The growth around the walls needs to be curtailed. Sugarshack is beautifully presented but they could save on the plethora of signage. An Píobaire Dall, with the lovely O'Leary lettering, is a delight in its contrasting colours. See what can be done with a landscaping flair for design. This is a magical area. There are wonderful stone walls all over and a delightful seat worked into the wall on a bend. The entries you make in the entry form are not relevant to this section and belong with landscaping.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

Nature already does most of the landscaping in Caherdaniel. Your task is to compliment what nature has bestowed in a meaningful manner. You are gifted in that you have natural colour and leaf texture throughout the year. All year

round colour is the objective. To compliment this you might have daffodils or bluebells in spring and so on. The summer is a time in which you want to be at your most colourful. Your task is to identify locations that would best benefit from summer bedding or perennial growth. Then you decide which plants are likely to survive the coastal climate. The bright red cart and the creamery can be a lovely idea at the junction but that junction needs a lot of tidying up. Its appearance should be the landscaping highlight of the village. The possibilities for landscaping are immense opposite Freddie's. That area looked beautiful, I am certain, before neglect took over. The grass strips come under Tidiness or Approach roads.

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

Adjudicators will be telling you that you have a rich biodiversity in this area with your stream, the coast, the trees, the walls. Your first step is to become aware of this richness and that first step is a forbidding one for many groups. Visit the Kerry County Council website and arrange to meet the heritage officer, preferably in Caherdaniel. That person will set you on your way. Now that you are in the Tidy Towns fold make sure that you let the Kerry County Council know that you have entered and that you want to be made aware of all of the seminars that are happening. Many of these seminars are on wildlife. A great advantage of attending these evenings is that you meet people from other places in Kerry who love to share their experience with you. You will learn more from these people for free than from all of the experts. Caherdaniel has a major problem. It has a very serious infestation of Japanese Knotweed. Its all over the place, in the loveliest areas. You also have a lesser infestation of gunnera, giant rhubarb. You need expert advice in dealing with both of these heart scolds. Kerry County Council have the answers.

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

Each project you mention is relevant to this category of the competition. That is a great start. It shows that your committee already has an awareness of what is expected in the sustainability category. It is wonderful to read that the school is involved in the Green Flag movement. Congratulations to staff, parents and pupils. Let you learn about elimination of waste and good resource management from the school. The community bus also reduces strain on natural resources. Recycling your goods is also commendable. But, for with next year's submission ensure have at least one other new project. Maybe rainwater harvesting is a possibility. Food waste is an area with possibilities. There may be suggestions among your committee that are more relevant to your community. But further your ambitions in this category.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

This is a section into which you can get your teeth stuck immediately. All of the items you mention relate to litter, none to tidiness. Tidiness is an issue for you and the adjudicator will get you started. There are a number of sheds and if the front door was painted it would make a great difference to the appearance of the shed and its surroundings. Weeds and grass growth will be dealt with under approach roads but is also a tidiness issue. A major problem is the advertising hoarding that abounds. Now this will need diplomacy as businesses that have been accustomed to advertising their wares for years will not take kindly to your requests. Keep kerbs and wall bases free of grass and of weeds. There are great opportunities in that open area beside the junk shop. Across the road that shed could be livened up as could the timber structure if painted. Maybe the HSE would look after the teak window. The map at the junction is faded and jaded. Make sure that your Bring Centre is not littered.

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

There are lovely houses all over the village, some delightful farm houses, others more modern. Those houses on the Sneem approach are delightful. Introduce yourselves to each householder. Look for their cooperation. Get them to take responsibility for the area along their front boundary. If they are not willing to come on board then you do the work. Lead from the front. If the house is vacant get onto the owner and proceed from there. You should have a chat with Kerry County Council on this matter and take their advice as to how you might proceed with uncooperative owners of unoccupied buildings. But if you can get the owners to share your dream all the better. As years go by and people see an improved appearance to the village they will be more willing to keep their side up. Get an namestone for An Gleanntán, a lovely estate. The furze and the boulders create a native feel to the lovely houses.

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

You have 'does not' apply in your entry form. Sorry but your approach roads form the first impression of your village and as such the appearance of the approach roads could decide whether the visitor stops or not or the local may decide whether it is worth supporting a Tidy Towns ideal or not. This adjudicator would prioritise the appearance of the approach roads. Coming from Waterville the outcropping sandstone and the hydrangeas are a delight. A pity about the conifers that are hindering the panoramic view. That lovely wall by the conifers should be restored in its present style of building. Get rid of weeds and of grass in front of and at the base of stone walls. The same is true of the appearance of the school front. The boulder retainer wall could be jollied with heathers or rock plants. Be proud of natural ditches. And you have these on the Sneem side also. This is a winding road so the picture changes with each twist on the road. Keep that in mind. That traffic barrier should stand out and not have weeds growing at its base. That outcropping sandstone could be improved with some planting.

Concluding Remarks:

Your letter showed that you are intent on improving the appearance and the conditions of living in Caherdaniel. Well done. In addition to the above I wish to add the following. Do not become tempted to employ experts who will cost a fortune. Let you be your own experts. Let other willing Tidy Towns groups guide you but do not spend a bob. Here is

an exercise for some long November night. Get all who attend at a meeting to write down 5 wishes they have for the appearance of Caherdaniel and for the living comforts of Caherdaniel. Get people to write down three things that bother them at present. Get everyone to write down how they would like to see Caherdaniel in 5 years time. Work on that brief. You will have ownership of your future, you who live with the delights as well as the problems of living in your village. And be patient.