

# Tidy Towns Competition 2015

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Currans** Ref: **333**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **261**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **21/07/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	33	38
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33	34
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	35	35
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	17	17
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	12	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	57
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	30	30
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	35	35
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>261</b>

### Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Well done to Currans TidyTowns and Rural Development for preparing the submission and presenting Currans for the TidyTowns Competition 2015. The adjudicator hopes that your participation in this year's competition will assist you with your work in the coming year. Thank you for your entry form, the map, the photos and the Currans Village Design Plan, 2012. It is clear that you are supported by a wide range of agencies as well as local businesses. The adjudicator regrets that he was not able to download your Facebook page and hopes the community is more successful in their efforts. Use of the community text alert seems to be a most convenient way of staying in touch with the community. Great to read that the school children are actively involved also. Your committee seems to have group out of the social needs of the residents of Currans. This illustrates that the residents were responding to a major issue in rural Ireland, social isolation and the response seems to have been most rewarding. Your contribution to the life of the village energises one just in reading it. The driving principle in your work and in the ambition of the committee is a most worthy one: 'to preserve the character of the village'. It appears to the adjudicator that you are succeeding admirably in making this ideal a reality.

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

The railway bridges are one's introduction to the built environment of Currans and are a major element of that built environment. Both are striking in their size and immediacy and both look extremely well. Your refurbishment of the Church and its environs must be a delight to you. The wall looks majestic. The landscaping on the Church grounds and in the car park express respect and illustrate your gift at choosing the appropriate plants for the area. It is obvious that great pride is also taken in the appearance of the Community Centre. Daly's also looks attractive and is beautifully framed by the bridge as one enters the village. As one drives up the 'street' towards the Church one begins to appreciate the wonderful work that you are doing in preserving and in presenting buildings that are no longer occupied. The traffic barriers at the car park must be unique to Currans and are most attractive. Were it not for your description of what has been done in Dan Joe's and at the other pub then one would have been fooled into thinking that these were normal functioning buildings. Well done. As regards the cottage, well take a bow, a delight. Your street artist has given us glimpses of life from the past in those delightful cameos on the cottage front. The graveyard is beautifully presented, the Crucifixion scene attracts one through the gate. If you are looking for a new project in this section the restoration and presentation of the Scoil Náisiúnta should be top of the list. Take care of the walls around the village as they are part of your heritage and need attention.

### Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

One becomes aware of the upcoming village through the two divine flower beds, both full of colour. The adjudicator lauds your use of perennial plants. The gravel surface looks very well on both beds. The embankment! Well one

can understand the reluctance of Iarród Éireann to involve themselves. The choice of ground cover would be of vital importance, something low maintenance but attractive and appealing to wildlife. The brushwood may appeal to the bees but one can understand your frustration. Encourage Daly's to take stock of the floral displays at their premises as this building stands like a sentry as one enters the village and should express all of the welled up pride of the people of Currans. As one continues through the village one becomes more appreciative of the landscaping that is undertaken in this village. All is well presented. People are invited to sit, relax, take out the flask in the heavenly surroundings that have been created for one by the people who live here. One feels for your plight with the picnic table but the replacement is most inviting. Not only was the cottage restored its personality is expressed through the mown grass and the rose bush at the gable. It may be possible to create an image representing the forge at that planting where one understands the forge may once have been situated.

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

The content of your submission is most impressive as there is an awareness among your committee of the rich bird life, fish stocks and general flora and fauna that exists in your locality. You state that hedgerows are maintained with priority given to wildlife over beautifying the surroundings, a value system that is commendable. In fact some of the wild roadside ditches are most attractive. Mention of the bog suggests that your interest goes beyond the immediate locality. The access to the river was admired as the bench invited one to sit a while before the next shower and listen to the river flow. How much of the information and awareness that is evident among your committee is known by the general community? Would the community in the village be as concerned for the welfare of the wildlife as you are? Have you any plans to get to know more about the bat sightings?

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

Your submission shows that your approach to this sustainability section of the competition is measured and considered. It is great that you have figures on how the waste that is created in your village is processed. Your response to communal composting is also well thought out, especially the downsides to a communal facility. What surprises the adjudicator is that there is no mention of private composting with compost bins in each garden. The adjudicator is sure that this must have been considered by your committee. Last year's adjudicator did mention home composting so ensure that you address that issue in your next submission. I also learned from last year's report that the school is involved in the Green Flag movement. That surely merits a mention in your submission. While this year's submission dwells at length on the composting issue there is little about elimination of waste and resource management in the community that was not in last year's submission. This adjudicator urges you to move up the waste pyramid by undertaking waste elimination programmes. Your community has responded with admirable determination to many issues in the village. If waste elimination were to be tackled with the same determination you would conquer the challenge of this category of the competition.

### **Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:**

Your group have gone to great lengths to make the village appear at its pristine best. This action is not inspired to please a passing adjudicator but to improve the quality of life of all of those who dwell here. Therefore a black spot in this tiny area has a major effect on its immediate surroundings and on morale of those attempting to improve the quality of life of the inhabitants. So the neglect of area beyond the bridge is a blow to the visual and to morale. It is not a major task to improve this black spot which conveys the wrong image of Currans. The capping should be restored to the top of the wall and in the style of the rest of the wall. The gate needs to be renewed. Dumping of that tar is unacceptable. In another location the work of the artist is belittled by the state of the gate and the appearance of the weeds. Clean this up and invite the artist to put one other glimpse of the old Currans on the remaining front wall. Raised beds down at the school are no longer in use. They should be removed or planted as they create a neglected impression as they are. Also get inside the windows of the old school and tidy them up. Well done on that tedious work at the flyover.

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

The dwellings of Currans express the pride that owners have in their properties and the respect they have for the place in which they live. All are beautifully painted. The front gardens express the personality of the dwellers in their many shades, their colours and textures. It is a big loss to a village when a house becomes vacant but your remedial work is a credit to you. Notice the contrast between the two sides of the road at the village centre, buildings congregated on one side and the wilderness reminding us that this is a rural village on the other side, a beautiful picture.

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

As Currans did not register on the Garmin the road signs were of vital importance in locating the village. Well done on your engagement with the County Council in this matter. There are not long stretches of roadway between the village limits and the actual village itself. As we approached the village the adjudicator was aware of the use of weedkiller along the side of the road for some distance and this is certainly a concern from a wildlife viewpoint. Before we arrive at the railway bridge we had already met two of your landscaped beds, a great welcome. There are fairly long stretches where the grass should be mown at the base of the wall or ditch to give greater definition to the picture, but just a mower width. Be careful that the shrubs do not interfere with the appearance of your name stone. On the road to the graveyard we have a contrast again between the dwellings on one side and that grassy ditch which is in itself a feature. But go easy on the weedkiller for the sake of God's little creatures. There is a wonderful profile of the Church as we travel back from the graveyard.

**Concluding Remarks:**

As one wandered through the village the thought that kept coming was: What you Currans look like were it not for the enthusiasm of this TidyTowns group? And when you are feeling down or despairing you should ask yourselves that same question. Then one thinks: What will this TidyTowns group have achieved the next time you have the privilege of visiting?