

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Currow** Ref: **897**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **293**
Category: **A** Date(s): **03/07/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	35	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	34	35
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	37	38
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	32	32
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11	15
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	64	65
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	34	35
TOTAL MARK	450	279	293

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Currow TidyTowns are heartily welcome to the SuperValu TidyTowns competition for 2015. We hope that your experience in the competition will be worth all of the effort you have expended in TidyTowns throughout the year. Thank you for your entry, your map, all of the supplementary material which displays your many ventures since last year's competition, your 3 Year Plan. The adjudicator feels that an amount of time and expense was invested in your submission and the adjudicator thanks you for the courtesy and congratulates you for your interest. But much of the material is unnecessary, for instance the guided tour of the village, a wonderful work but more suited to a welcome for the tourist. This adjudicator prefers to be a free agent, wander around, visit the projects which should be numbered on the village map and make his own judgements. This is not a criticism but a word in your ear for next year. With a committee of just eight members you get through an amount of work. Were it not for the voluntary support you get, as from the estate for instance, you would be under fierce pressure. It is of special interest to this competition that you interact in a meaningful way with the school. It must be gratifying for you that your work is appreciated by the community. It means that your TidyTowns group make a difference in Currow.

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

Community buildings are well presented, for example the Community Centre and the lovely school. Buildings and practices from the past are also honoured as in the old forge or the lime kiln. One presumes that one passed the old creamery, another building that is treated with care. The stand-out experience in the built environment has to be the Church and its surroundings. Reasonably modern building with the most delightful pathway surface one could imagine. This is a village of creative tradesmen. Their work will outlive them and be admired for many generations. Actually the inside of the Church is also bright and welcoming. A highlight of the visit was the old cemetery. A wonderful wall surrounds this sacred place. There is not a blade of grass. Rich man poor man, all are given the same treatment, all are covered neatly in a limestone gravel. Business premises present beautifully from one end of the village to the other. Inevitably farm buildings are part of the built environment here and one gives credit to the way in which farmers make every effort to create a tidy image for Currow.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

As the landscaping and the treatment of the approach roads are intertwined much of what is said under approach roads applies equally to landscaping. One can also say that the appearance of the built environment is inextricably linked with the landscaping. The school welcomes the most nervous with its colourful entrance. The landscaping around the Church is divine. Its little add-ons like the bird bath or the bicycle that give beds and landscaped areas their distinct personality. This area of the village is a delightful that should have tour buses visit each day to taste the real Ireland. The sandstone wall is a wonderful backdrop to a bed beyond the bridge. The machinery museum

shows the priority you give to bringing your past to life for the younger generation. Tree planting is a continuous occupation as on the Scartaglin road behind the fence. The fine avenue of trees on the way from the old cemetery will soon be complimented by the new growth on the new cemetery side of the road. Well done on the appearance of the grotto.

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

The lake area is another joy. The Titanic tragedy visited Currow, imagine. Trees all over. Picnic tables too. A lovely bench. Expectant ducks and geese are disappointed at the frugal offering of this visitor. Be careful with the grass clippings near the lake. Use the mown grass as a mulch for trees further away from the bank. Your respect for those who helped create today's Currow is not just shown at the pumphouse but in the memorials throughout the wildlife park. To achieve the 100 mark seems to be commonplace in Currow. Your wildlife park is real delight to visit. The adjudicator is pleased that you are seeking advice on the algae. But not all is manicured. The adjudicator is delighted to see the nettles grow wild. One hopes that your awareness of the biodiversity of the village is not confined to this one area and that you research the wildlife associated with your miles of ditches and your majestic trees, just two examples of what might be undertaken.

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

While it appears that this category of the competition is a challenge to you your various projects are relevant to what is being attempted in the category. Well done on all of those projects. The adjudicator mentions the water saving in particular as this is an example of commendable resource management. Great that the school is involved with you. While recycling is an important part of the waste pyramid it is but one part and one would wish to see you considering how you might cut down on waste in the home, for example, in the coming year. Your scrap metal collection is also relevant but the emphasis in your submission is on the money collected rather than on the sustainable living aspect of such a project. Read the updated TidyTowns handbook on this section as it is teeming with ideas. Your 3 Year Plan mentions an audit with Kerry County Council and the implementation of that audit. Where has that gone as I can find no trace of it.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The appearance of the ditches, the long stretches of footpath contribute to the tidiness of this village as does the attention to the grass verge where that occurs. It appears that the road sweeper is on constant duty because there is no sign of the countryside debris that often jars in rural villages. The areas in front of walls as at the cemetery are neat and clean. Landscaped beds often have a gravel surface but the gravel does not stray. The wall near the Church could be an ugly duckling in the midst of all of the beauty but people with an eye to the future have done you a wonderful service with the ivy. There are some beautiful gates to be seen, keep an eye on gates that are in need of replacing and try and have a say in their replacement. There could be a temptation to replace the old footpath after the wildlife lake. The adjudicator urges restraint as it is really there just for show. The footpath across the road provides adequate safety. The GAA complex is a credit to the people who created it. There is a timber board, the back of which is very obvious from the car park, and it would do with a coat of paint. It is a most effective litter awareness approach when a community gets the youth involved in taking responsibility for litter control in an area. And this policy pays off in Currow. There was very little litter to be seen. Well done, especially to the youth.

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

The residents of the houses in Currow seem to engage fully with the ideals of the TidyTowns Committee as the contribution made with the landscaping of the houses is inspiring. An example is the Bed and Breakfast. The cynic might say 'sure that is a bed and breakfast, what do you expect?' If the outside reflects the inside I would expect a six star stay. There are delightful treatments to cottages and more modern homes all over the village. All seem to add to the rural village effect especially the cottage opposite the pond with its delightful letter box. Residents on the approach roads provide interest with their various treatments of their fronts. The entrance to Parkmore also beckons one to visit. The landscaping on the way continues that welcome. A lovely estate in which the landscaping does not interfere with the football. A wall that looks a bit untidy needs your attention in this estate. In Lakeview estate a lovely practice is the planting conducted by the residents outside their front walls. Planting at the entrance compliments the surroundings of the entrance to this estate. But pay attention to kerbside weeds in this estate

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

Fáilte go Curra is a lovely welcome to the beautiful village. Every approach road is celebrated with an element of your heritage. A lovely way of saying welcome and acknowledging your past all at once. In one case it is the painting on the lodge windows. In another case it is the stone work and the colourful landscaping at the lime kiln. Then there is the delightful work at the pump. No approach road escapes without the welcome touch. This adjudicator had the good fortune to arrive from Farranfore. Now that was some delightful shock start. A feature of travelling in Currow is the roadside ditch. These ditches on dry walls are a delight as they steer one from one event to another. The next feature is the branded treatment of the fencing with the green the chosen colour. One becomes aware of the sandstone walls, the stone most likely native to the area. That landscaping out on the Castleisland road illustrates clearly the dedication of the TidyTowns people of Currow. Those beds are another delight and enhance a junction that is not immediate to their village but which still is passed through daily by the people of Currow. The design and colour is but another example of the creativity that is found all over the village.

Concluding Remarks:

Pursuit of glory alone would not create the wonderful experience that awaited the adjudicator on the day of his visit to Currow. One must dig deeper into the Currow psyche to find what is it that motivates you to plan, to design, to fundraise, to produce, to maintain, to plant, to paint, to build. It can only be a sincere pride in who you are and what your home sod means to you. Nár laga Dia riamh sibh.