

# Tidy Towns Competition 2015

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Farranfore** Ref: **1087**  
County: **Kerry** Mark: **239**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **03/07/2015**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2014</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2015</b>
Community Involvement & Planning	60	28	33
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	30	30
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	30	30
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	22	23
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11	14
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	51	51
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	28	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	29	29
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>239</b>

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

Congratulations to Farranfore TidyTowns for taking part in the 2015 SuperValu TidyTowns Competition. Even as a relatively new participant in the TidyTowns competition it is great to read that you feel your efforts are having an impact on community spirit in the village, that you are raising awareness of the appearance of the village and that you are initiating ventures that will further enhance village life. For instance, the adjudicator is certain that there would not be a Biodiversity Action Plan were it not for you. So take a bow, your group does make a difference. Thank you for your completed entry form, the very effective hand drawn map which pointed out the locations that must be visited as being of special interest to the adjudicator, the appendices which gave a flavour of your priorities to the adjudicator. You are conducting your business in a manner that is recommended by TidyTowns by ensuring that your committee has the support in the community, that you engage with the local agencies and that you engage with the school. One wonders what the nature of the support you get from Kerry Airport is as your work must be a great advantage to the airport authorities. The adjudicator noticed that there is no mention of the school being involved with the Green Flag movement. That is an initiative you might prompt. You are well on your way as a TidyTowns committee. Well done.

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

For such a short stretch of a busy road this village possesses quite a number of business premises. So ever before the rant of heavy traffic became the background music Farranfore was a busy junction. These business premises form the heart of the village. Therefore their appearance is vital to the image presented by Farranfore. Some serve that purpose better than others. There is a problem with clutter and signage in some cases producing an untidy look. Then at S Sheehans the fresh looking white and the attention to the front of the building creates a lovely village impression. Sherwoods also is defined in its appearance and enhances the village appearance. One forgives the clutter of furniture in the store next door because the appearance of the furniture contributes to the village atmosphere, the surroundings are also neatly presented. There is a joy about the front of Herlihys created through the landscaping, the art and the overall care devoted to the front. The adjudicator has reservations about the bunting in the poitigear's and the window advertising at the Post Office while acknowledging that this area does look well. While the car park at the railway station is rough the buildings and the platform area are most inviting. One hopes that the fine building at the end of the platform is not left neglected. Other buildings to impress are the GAA complex, the school and the Medical Centre. Liam Lynch's modern garage certainly brings a modern vibrancy to the built environment of Farranfore.

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

This village is heavily wooded along most of its boundaries with a variety of wonderful trees and plants creating

divine birdsong. One feels that your group is beginning to make an impact and that many more challenges await your loving care. Tree planting is vital and one sees that you have made a start as on the airport road, in the railway complex and with your oaks. There are other possibilities for tree planting in the future. The result of the redesign at the Kerrygold complex is wonderful even at this early stage of development. The trees inside the fence will provide a beautiful backdrop to your work in time. As yet the garden on the Currow Road makes little impact and will require support. The growth on the way into Radharc na Páirce continues the natural wooded theme of the village landscape. Landscaping depends also on the contribution of the residents with their private gardens and some do contribute handsomely. Others need encouragement. Businesses too need to brighten the surroundings with planting, be it perennial or bedding. Herlihy's is the picture to envy and surpass. There are two grassed areas in the village centre that present your committee with delightful opportunities.

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

When the adjudicator read your submission and saw the photos of the information sheets hanging from the fence he was concerned. The visit allayed those concerns as the biodiversity area is inspired and lends a hand to an area that could be an overgrowth hiding the beautiful stream. But that garden is a practical, positive step in promoting the biodiversity of the area and in promoting awareness among the locals of the riches that surround them. The information is relevant and worthwhile. The panels will find a more permanent home in time. As the front hedge thickens that ugly fence will be discarded. Even the appearance of the bridge adds to this garden setting, though appearance is hardly even a secondary concern. You are congratulated for your initiative in having a biodiversity study prepared, the origins dating back to 2012 and your garden is a direct result. One looks forward to wild flowers prospering on that bank in the railway car park. There are spots of invasive species at two locations. Seek advice.

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

Lets get the bad stuff out of the way first. Appendix 11 belongs to the Litter/Tidiness category of the competition. In fact the adjudicator is always concerned when there are references to litter in this sustainability category. So no litter here, please. Well done on the recycling. That is a first positive step. The Christmas tree shredding is a further step. Sometimes in this competition photos can be an irrelevant nuisance but in your case they are a life saver. The fact that the adjudicator cannot be seen wandering around the back of a school makes them even more relevant. The photos in Appendix 8 are relevant to the sustainable living section. These photos of the work done by the pupils should be top of your sustainability list. The photo of the water butt, which would not be seen by the adjudicator, is what we are trying to achieve. The polytunnel, the vegetable patch are sustainability gems. The fact that there is no mention of them in your submission suggests that you may not fully understand what is demanded by this category. So the adjudicator directs you to the updated guidelines from the TidyTowns unit. If you do not possess the most recent copy of these guidelines then ring the TidyTowns Unit in Ballina. You are making progress.

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

This section is a real challenge for your group. The traffic is unavoidable, the accompanying drone inevitable. Hopefully, the speed can be addressed. But possibly the biggest cost is the effect traffic has on the appearance of buildings, on walls and on fences. Your group deserves all the support those responsible for roads can give you as your village facilitates the traffic between two major Kerry towns and is an artery to the rest of Ireland. But lets look at what you can control. Advertising at the junction from the airport cheapens the appearance of the village. Two businesses should be encouraged to show restraint in this practice. The fencing opposite the buildings on the N22 has a unique design but needs a hand with painting and being kept upright. That wooden fence on the way to the airport could do so much for that approach road. Grass margins will be dealt with under approach roads. Your submission suggests that you need to give much more thought to this section. Litter is often created by passing traffic so your village is a real fall guy for passing traffic litter. You may need to remind motorists to take their plastic bottles home. There is litter despite your efforts.

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

Farranfore is a highly residential area. Not only are there residences along the approach roads but also in the heart of the village. Special mention should be made of the housing on the main street as these houses look so impressive despite the challenge of passing traffic. In a quieter ambience the cottages of Radharc na Páirce are nestled in seamlessly to their surrounds. Keep an eye on the landscaped beds and tubs in here. The colour of floral displays in Radharc na Mara should rival that inside the school bounds. Residents on the Milltown road seem to take full advantage of their quieter road as their fronts add immeasurably to their surroundings.

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

This is the village of an international airport so many will have their first impression of Farranfore along these roads. It is vital from that viewpoint that the roads entice one to stop or at least admire. Of greater importance than the impression of the visitor is the pride of place of the residents and the appearance of the approach roads impacts on their attitude to their home place. The Farranfore name stones are a wonderful addition. But there are other steps that must be taken which sadly demand a work routine that is laborious. You need to define your grass verges with greater determination. On the airport road there is a wonderful footpath that extends all the way to the entrance of the airport. You need to examine how you can compliment that path by presentation of the other side of the road. Coming from Killarney one notes that you have strimmed the grass to create a view of you name stone. Lovely. The adjudicator feels that you need to mow all of that area until you arrive at where the residents take over the presentation. You have planted some trees even further out on that Killarney road so there is a case for manicuring, one width of the lawnmower, out to that planting. Such care would alert the passer by that there is a significant

village coming up. It may also act as a traffic calming measure but even the adjudicator feels that that is expecting too much! As one approaches on the N22 traffic calming measures are signposted. The adjudicator feels that more is needed for the comfort of the residents. Many motorists make life difficult for the residents of your village. The minor approach roads are tended to by the home owners. As these are country roads one would allow the countryside to express itself. But greater attention needs to be paid to tidiness on the Currow road.

**Concluding Remarks:**

The adjudicator hopes that this report does not dispirit you as the tone and content at times seem critical. The criticisms are of practices that must be examined and the condition of some areas. You are a relatively young group in this competition. You are motivated by your concern for the lovely village in which you live. The comments of the adjudicator spring from a wish to guide your work based on experience of judging many other villages. Good luck with your work in the future.