

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Finuge** Ref: **336**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **225**
Category: **A** Date(s): **01/07/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	33
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	30
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	32
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	10
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	29
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	31
TOTAL MARK	450	225

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome back to the SuperValu TidyTowns Competition 2015. Every good wish to your village in the competition. Congratulations to the Finuge TidyTowns Committee for the brave step that you have taken in re-entering the competition. Thank you for your entry form and for the hand drawn village map. The adjudicator did not understand why you included the second map. As Finuge could be difficult enough to locate the adjudicator advises you to fill in the Estimated Location section of the entry form. You seem to have a fine meitheal of workers on your committee. You mention the agencies from whom you get support. Next year give examples of the ways in which these agencies help village life in Finuge. The adjudicator is pleased that you engage with the local schools. It is clear that your committee has benefited the appearance of the village. It is also clear that you promote respect and interest in your heritage. These are worthwhile achievements. The adjudicator would love to read of the issues facing people in Finuge and what measures your group is taking to address these issues. But for now you are back in the saddle and good luck to you in your work over the coming years.

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

It appears as if the GAA acts as god and teacher in this corner of Kerry. The GAA, the pub and the corner shop are the main elements of the built environment in Finuge. No priest, no teacher and life goes on. But there are medals, as the role of honour at the GAA entrance proudly proclaims. That entrance is presented with devotion. The junction is lit up by the contrasting colours in O'Sullivan's and McCarthy's. Your Teach Siamsa seems an ideal setting for local siamsaíocht and is beautifully presented. The curving pointed stone wall sets the site off. The flowers finish off the cameo. I almost forgot the Grotto and the lovely settled look of it as the variegated silver ivy creeps along.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

The trees dominate the landscaping of the village and they are imposing. Houses provide further colour and provide a lower level of hedging or perennials or summer colour. Those levels closer to the ground serve the needs of many of God's creatures. A few bedding plants on the pillars of one house or the multitude of pots, baskets and flowers in another, the creeping ivy of another are examples of how the residents provide colour. The box hedging at the junction going out that minor road helps to create the genuine village effect. The benches create an air of relaxation. One presumes that that raised bed is your millennium garden as there is no mention of it on the map. Whatever it is it is a delight. The planting in it is superb, the gravel surface a lovely touch. And it is wonderful to read about Sean McCarthy and see his bust. The adjudicator loved the timber gates. The window boxes on the white background of the thatched cottage add to the appearance of the cottage and corner. Good to see that your interest in tree growing continues as in the planting near the junction. The adjudicator wondered why you choose a conifer hedge at this location in a village of deciduous trees.

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

The adjudicator is very much dependent on the group's submission for information in this section. Trees may have been grown in earlier times but there are no wildlife information panels from that time. You say that you pay particular attention to the river. The adjudicator needs you to develop what is meant by attention. The nature reserve could be any one of many types. What is meant by a nature reserve? What is the nature of the planned projects for 2016? Do you know what birds are being attracted by the tall trees? The adjudicator is almost certain that there is an infestation of Japanese Knotweed on the Killecrim road. Already someone has been cutting it. Contact the Environmental Area Officer in the County Council in Tralee to find out how to deal with this. Cutting is not the way to deal with it as cutting often propagates the plant.

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

This category is the bane of many groups' lives. Therefore do not be overawed, you are in good company if you find it difficult. The mark has also jumped from 20 to 50 since your last entry in the competition. You mentioned that the schools had attained Green Flag status. Well done to all involved. Their involvement in the Green Flag movement is highly regarded in this competition so make sure you stress the schools' achievement in next year's entry in an informed manner. Let us know in what way your group is involved with the achievement of the schools. Has the conservation of water and energy in the school context impacted in any way on the home practice of the families? Have water butts been introduced? Consider what you perceive to be sustainable energy saving activities in Finuge and list them in the entry for 2016.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

The appearance of the village is closely linked with the trees, the mown verge, the presentation of the houses, the appearance and condition of the roadside walls so Finuge performs well under this category. The village presents a tidy image. The road surface on the Killecrim is an issue and should be dealt with. One reads that you patrol for litter daily. Well done. The fruits of your labour are obvious. But there is litter. Have you taken part in national Clean-Up Day in April? 'Keep Finuge Litter Free' is a timely reminder to the passing driver who bought chips and a can in Listowel and completes their consumption in Finuge.

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

One could deal with the residential under approach roads also as many of the houses are on the approach roads and contribute personality to those routes. The residential takes one back in time not because of the thatch only but because these delightful cottages, the farm houses and the bungalows of a more modern era have gardens created about them that fit the stock cottage garden image with box and montbretia and whatever. There is no uniformity but the acceptance of what the soil offers and produces with the helping hand of the green fingered. Those many cottage style residences are a delight. Their more modern companions have settled into these surroundings comfortably over the years.

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

First impressions last and the first impression of Finuge is of that tunnel of trees that draw one into this delightful village. Your submission claims that tree planting has been ongoing for many years. The adjudicator witnesses the veracity of that claim. This is not a heavily forested area but Finuge is certainly afforested. The experts claim that an avenue of trees should all be of the same species. Finuge proves the exception to that rule. Species, leaf texture, colour vary like the instruments of an orchestra to give Finuge its unique stamp. Care is taken that the grass verges are not just maintained but properly presented. That mowing work is an important element of the presentation of the village. On the Lixnaw side the trees are no longer in the public realm but force their way out of walls and fields to compliment those on the Listowel side. One of the minor approach roads is dominated by the wilderness of the roadsides and this should not be manicured in any way, just allow it to express itself. There are more houses on the other approach roads, all adding to the interest of their surroundings.

Concluding Remarks:

This adjudicator had never been in Finuge prior to the visit. He was totally unaware of the contributions some of your sons had made to the glorious Kingdom and continue to do. That information deepened his appreciation of both people and place. One could argue that Finuge is a mere stretch of road. Yes, it is no metropolis, but it sure makes an impression. Feel proud of your part in making that impression.