

Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Waterville** Ref: **352**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **280**
Category: **B** Date(s): **17/07/2015**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2014	Mark Awarded 2015
Community Involvement & Planning	60	40	40
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	35	37
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	38	39
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	18	18
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	11	20
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	32	32
TOTAL MARK	450	264	280

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Céad fáilte roimh Waterville TidyTowns go comórtas SuperValu TidyTowns na bliana 2015. We hope that you get due credit for the work done in your village over the past year. Thank you for your entry form, your superbly enumerated map of Waterville, your 3 Year Plan commencing this year. A special thanks to your photographer whose photos covered so many aspects of Waterville life. Then there was a second map which only served to confuse the adjudicator. Many of the brochures are of a touristic nature and of little aid to the adjudicator whereas the material concerning TidyTowns activities is of interest to the adjudicator. You have a long association with this competition and it is gratifying to read that the competition gives focus and goal to your work. Most importantly, it 'brings the community together'. Your submission shows that you are responding to the social and economic issues that beset your particular village. There is a vibrancy expressed in your submission that shows your committee is right up to speed with today's issues in Waterville. Even the reshuffle in your committee shows that you adjust to the here and now, as does your 3 Year Plan. Well done. Your submission was carefully compiled by one of your committee who deserves great credit for the time, the expertise and the obvious pride devoted to the work. Therefore the adjudicator feels churlish in advising the compiler to ensure that material is an aid to the adjudicator. Sections of this work are too wordy. Sometimes short is sweet. Sorry. No marks lost.

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

The Butler Arms Hotel dominates the appearance of the centre of Waterville and, fortunately, it wears that mantle as leader with distinction. The various premises contribute greatly and positively to the appearance of the streets. The adjudicator mentions a few like O Dwyers, An Corcán, the Lobster, Bayview Hotel and so on down the street. If one wants to get a sense of the visual impact of the premises and residences of the main street stand up at the Community Office on an elevated level and you will delight at the sight. That building and the toilets represent the new, modern Waterville. The whole of the Community Centre area is very well presented. As one reaches the end of the street the street art bids us a colourful good bye. In another location the Chaplin wall art creates a smile of enjoyment. Buildings do not have to be traditional or old to be admired The modern Community Office in the car park and the building at the Community Garden are the stand out good examples. One has to do a bit of nosing about to discover the old Coast Guard Station but its appearance is worth the trouble. Finding the school out in the country was another highlight with the contrasting purple and cream colouring. The size of the Garda station suggests a threat of criminality in other times. I am going to include the prom walk in this section as the built work here is impressive. Street furniture is superb, even the man made beach stone seats with the flag for a seat. All these entice one to slow down and take stock. The only building on the seaside is An Tigín and one feels that this building has survived from a time pre planning permission and so deserves the respect afforded to older buildings. It stands there proudly. The grotto is another delight.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

In the first instance the ditches landscape the road from Cahersiveen. But you lend a helping hand very effectively to the picture. The gravelled surface along the perimeter of the grassed area is a delight, the design of the bed that softens the wall corner another delight. The containers of flowers create a summery atmosphere. Then the curved path from street to prom adds a dash of flair to the picture. People of merit are honoured and recent work is admired. The hydrangeas may seem common place but do they create an impression in the walled area beside the car park. Hydrangeas are delightful in other areas of the village also, not so much for visitors but more importantly for the residents. The monument at the junction might prosper even without the half barrels. Those floral displays do nothing for the fine design of the monument. Also make sure that the planting does not hide Mary Robinson's name from view.

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

Your submission shows how much your coastal location shapes your approach to the wildlife section. Creating awareness of the biodiversity riches of your coastal position seems to be the main focus of your activities. Your heritage signage shows that you value the status of Special Area of Conservation and the trust of your work is in informing your community. The foreshore walk illustrates your efforts to broaden the community's enjoyment of the sea and what being a coastal town has to offer the inhabitants. The adjudicator loved the sensory garden but felt there is a confusion in your presentation between this wildlife section and the sustainable living section. Though both can be intertwined the adjudicator feels that much of the content on the sensory garden was about recycling. There also appears to be a confusion between litter control and the sea wildlife. Beach clean ups belong in the litter category for the most part. Your submission was very wordy but told us little of your activities in this wildlife section. There is Japanese Knotweed and gunnera out the road from Ard Aoibhinn. Consult with Kerry County Council as to how to proceed.

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

Lets get the negative out of the system first. The adjudicator admits to being a little disappointed by the contents of your 3 Year Plan for this category. There is little development from year to year. In fact there is a bullet point for 2017 that stands all alone begging for content. This is in sharp contrast to the contents under sustainable waste and resource management. There are many admirable projects about which much is written. These cover awareness projects, treatment of waste, schools initiatives, reuse shopping bags, the wormery and your community garden which helps to reduce food miles. Without ever visiting Waterville the pictures tell a story of a community that is managing its resources, managing its waste and doing a lot to reduce that waste. But when one visits and discovers the Community Garden and all of its various contents one knows that this divine area should be the focus of your submission for next year. So there is no need for repetition of projects in your 3 Year Plan. Have another read over the latest content in the TidyTowns handbook and that should further broaden your horizon. You would get even more marks if the 3 Year Plan was not found wanting. My experience in the car park of the community garden suggests that you could benefit from a composting heap, a plan for the garden for next year.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

One reads your submission on this section with interest. This is a seaside resort thus increasing the threat from litter droppers. Your litter picking regimes and the notices seem to be having an effect. Now there is litter, no doubt, but you do have a handle on it. Your submission also states that you are conscious of signage clutter and again one feels that in general this is under control. Waterville presents itself as a tidy coastal town. Your footpaths contribute greatly to this, as for instance the path along the prom. The attention to the grassed area is meticulous. Road markings are sharp. Your finger signposts are a delight. Then there is a great effort to keep premises and houses freshly painted. There is no visual clutter hindering your main gold mine, the sea. Even a property that is vacant and for sale keeps up its outside appearance. The car park is another major contributor to the tidiness of the village. Attractive bollards keep the cars out of Charlie Chaplin's walk. Traffic comes into this section and the adjudicator saw first hand up around Mace the results of one person parking illegally. Potholes on the way into Cable Terrace are a menace.

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

There is such an age range in the houses of Waterville, possibly dating back to cable times. And if those houses do date back a long way they still retain their dignity, their many soft colours reflecting sea colours on the fine day. The name Cable Terrace hints strongly at their era. There are very few houses on the approach roads but those in all cases on the N70 enhance their surroundings. The road up from the Grotto represents many of the various elements of the residential in Waterville. A number of holiday home estates were visited such as Waterville Cottages and these present themselves very well along this road. Other holiday home clusters do not set the world alight. Then there is Seaview Terrace, very well maintained and looking a delight. This is also true of Ard Aoibhinn, lovely landscaping with raised beds but tend to the grass at the far end. Those houses on the road up from Legends also merit respect. Many individual homes look very well on this road and in other areas too. A pity that more areas do not have a name sign or a name stone. The adjudicator is pleased to read in your submission that you engage with Residents Associations and that householders are cooperating with your efforts.

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

Lets start with your Fáilte stone, beautiful and tastefully understated. But make sure that any adornment of your welcome stone makes a positive impression. Those barrels that highlight the stone at the Caherdaniel end are a bit

half hearted. The landscaped walls all the way into the street are delightful. Planting varies as we move along, the raised beds adding to the variety. On approaching from Caherdaniel the fine stone walls impress, the landscaping a joy. When we eventually meet the houses all the bungalows impress and bring colour to their surroundings. Other approach roads are more rural and are discussed mainly under residential. But on the road from Cahirsiveen one is greeted immediately with the craft market. To be honest the adjudicator was misled by the word market, mistook museum for an antique mart and almost missed the incredible heritage trail on Valentia stone. What a way to be introduced to a town. One felt somewhat superior armed with all this information ever before getting into Waterville. Every element of Waterville life is included from bog oak to Charlie Chaplin, from pre history to the present. The strong colours protecting the farm artefacts a delight.

Concluding Remarks:

Ever before arriving into Waterville one was aware of the storm damage. One sympathises with your plight and reads that works are still ongoing. But a visitor would hardly notice that such misfortune had visited you such has been the quality of the restoration work. This is a resilient community used to responding to the vagaries of coastal existence. A most enjoyable experience is Waterville.