

Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Farranfore - Fearan Fobhar** Ref: **1087**
County: **Kerry** Mark: **285**
Category: **A** Date(s): **12/07/2020**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	39	38
Streetscape & Public Places	80	36	37
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	35	36
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	31	31
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	19	21
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55	56
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	32	33
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	33	33
TOTAL MARK	550	280	285

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu don bhliain 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo.
Adh Mór...

Welcome to the 2022 SuperValu TidyTowns competition and thank you for your application form map and photos etc. There were 44 documents/files/attachments to your submission – we do not have time to open all of these so please rearrange your attachments in next year's submission. We advise that you have a maximum of two attachments – the completed Application Form and your 3/5 Year Plan. All other documents should form part of the Application Form. Put the photos into the Form in the various Categories to which they relate – you were previously advised to do this and we wonder why did you not take the advice? The map and legend/index should also form part of the Application Form. Please take this advice on board and help your adjudicator. We also question why you gave us a three year out of date document? The Development Plan is dated 2019 – we don't need to know what you have completed. Your committee of ten and the volunteers number thirty, so hopefully someone will organise next year's application as we request and also update the Development Plan. You list state and semi state agencies in addition to local business and voluntary groups who support you. This is your eleventh year and you tell us that involvement 'has heightened and focused the community spirit and awareness'. We looked for a Farranfore TidyTowns and also Farranfore Development Association Facebook Page but couldn't find any We felt that many of the projects include in the application were old – e.g. the unveiling of the 1916 Commemorative Garden. Did that happen in 2019 or 2020 or before that?

Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

You are a small rural village with a mix of vernacular single and two-storey buildings located where the busy N22 meets the equally busy N23 and on the day we visited traffic was non-stop through the main street. The streetscape was very presentable with most residents and businesses making the effort to paint their buildings and garden boundaries. The Railway Amenity Park is very pleasant and we commend all who have been involved in this project. The new signs were noted - 'Farranfore to Valentia Harbour Railway' and 'End of the Railway, Dawn of the Greenway'. This 27km long cycleway will, like the other cycleways around Ireland, become very popular with walkers as well as cyclists and bring additional visitors to Farranfore. We love the Victorian snecked limestone railway station and the cast iron pedestrian bridge across the tracks. The 1916 memorial area was noted - we admired the tall grey planters and we recommend that you replace the other two with similar tall grey planters.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The work undertaken by Kerry Group Plc on the Furies Road was noted – an array of rowan trees, hedges and flowers all add to the beauty of their entrance area. The planting bed around the village name (coming on the N22 from the north) was particularly beautiful with a variety of pollinator friendly flowers and shrubs of varying heights – we suggest you create other planting areas in a similar manner. We admired that you have planted shrubs along the concrete block wall leading to the Railway Amenity Park which are maturing nicely and will in a few years hide the blockwork - they will need to be trained along the wall to do this The Amenity Park itself is quite beautiful and peaceful. The planting will take time to mature but when it does the area will be quite special. Parallel to the N22 is the tributary of the river Maine and tall mature trees which line both sides of the bank are very beautiful and were full of bird song when we visited.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

Your village is located on the busy N22/N23 junction and so has vehicles passing through on a continuous basis. But around the village are stone walls, hedge rows and trees and flowing parallel to the N22 is the tributary of the Maine river. We note that you have completed a Biodiversity Action Plan (there was no appendix 1 at the bottom of your application form) so we are unsure when this was undertaken. It is important to promote awareness of nature in your area and perhaps there is someone locally who could map these habitats. You are about to embark on training under various categories but you neglected to give dates for these training modules. Let us know of dates in next year's application. We also suggest that you make contact with Kerry Co Co heritage and environmental officers and ask for advice in undertaking activities/projects in this category. We were delighted to read that some of the residents have embarked on bee keeping and that the bees have produced a bumper crop last year. Is the honey for sale in the local shop?

Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:

You list quite a few actions undertaken by the different business and commercial premises in the village and on the outskirts. The parents, pupils and teachers of Knockaderry national school have developed a garden at the rear of the school in which they grow vegetables, fruit trees, and flowers grown from seed (from the previous year's flowers). In addition, they collect rain water which they use to water the plants. We look forward to seeing the poly tunnel when it is completed. Is the school involved in the Green Flag Programme? You could perhaps assist them if they are. Have you thought about having a community garden within the village? This has become very popular in small communities and besides being a great way to share plants etc. it is also a great social gathering venue. We note that there are a number of community composting sites around the village – hopefully they are being used correctly.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

Living on the busy N22 you are challenged daily with passing traffic and we are delighted to report that the litter level was quite low given the volume of traffic that passes each day through the village - we commend the litter pick-up team. Like many communities around Kerry, you too took part in the County Clean up from 2nd – 9th of April. This is a great way to get the whole community working together for the good of each other and we encourage participation in this annual event. The bring bank area was neat and the bins were clean and presentable. They had been recently emptied and were ready for the next batch of glass and cans. Their location is ideal as they are on view and so shouldn't cause a problem with people leaving cartons and bags. We noted that ivy is beginning to grow on the water tower in the Railway Amenity Park. While ivy is a wonderful for insect life and is acceptable/good on rendered (plastered) walls it is not acceptable on stone structures as the roots penetrate between the joints in the stones, making walls unstable and in time leading to their collapse. Natural stone constructions are in themselves great habitats for insect life and also very beautiful in the streetscape.

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

The village properties and those on the outskirts of the village were, in the main, well presented. Some had been recently painted and were quite beautiful. Some residents had made an effort in terms of adding colour/movement to the planting in their gardens. Those without gardens had an array of flowers and shrubs in pots beside their front doors which gave additional definition to the entrance areas. The communal green space at Radharc na Pairc had trees and a planting bed with plants and rose bushes of varying heights behind the name sign (the sign needs painting). The planter sitting on the grass isn't needed. Have you thought about having a Garden competition – this is something that introduces a little competition and is always successful. A certificate can be presented to the winner of the Best Kept Garden on a social occasion where the press is invited for a photo shoot – more publicity for your committee.

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

From the 50km signs from all sides the margins are neatly cut and so most of the motorists on the day we visited approached the village with care. We loved the village name in stone shown clear both in Irish and English. It would be wonderful to get footpaths linking the various business etc and you hope that one will soon be provide to the Medical Center. We saw that one extends to Kerry Airport from the village, which we are sure is well used. We noted the Irish Heart walks – the red and green – which we are sure will be used by the community. We question why the pedestrian is brought out nearer the passing traffic at the railway track/crossing junction? Surely the white line could be relocated. While adults will walk along the safe path maybe children wouldn't. We note that a previous adjudicator recommended that you recycle tyres in the normal way and not use them as planters – we too recommend this. Planting beds can be made using stone as walls – a much better and more acceptable material.

Concluding Remarks:

We enjoyed visiting your village and seeing the work undertaken. Please note the comments regarding the submission for next year so that the adjudicators' time is well spent and rewarding.
Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2022 competition.