

# Tidy Towns Competition 2021

## Adjudication Report

Centre: <b>Farranfore - Fearan Fobhar</b>	Ref: <b>1087</b>
County: <b>Kerry</b>	Mark: <b>280</b>
Category: <b>A</b>	Date(s): <b>27/07/2021</b>

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2021</b>
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	60	39
Streetscape & Public Places	60	36
Green Spaces and Landscaping	60	35
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	50	31
Sustainability – Doing more with less	50	19
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	55
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	33
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>280</b>

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

Fáilte Chuig Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valu 2021. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht na hiontrála a chur chugainn. Go raibh maith agaibh as ucht bhur dtacaíocht le linn na paindéime. Lean leis an dea-obair.

Welcome to the 2021 SuperValu TidyTowns competition. Thank you for your entry and for your commitment to your place in these difficult times. Keep up the great work.

- With just a population of 84 people, 10 on the committee and another 30 volunteers, about half of your community is involved with TidyTowns for the 9th year.
- Your monthly meetings have changed format because of Covid and now you make more use of telephone and emails and hold some meetings outdoors.
- You still carry out weekly/monthly clean-ups employing social distancing guidelines.
- Training in biodiversity and the use of defibrillators took place in 2019 and some volunteers participate in fire and rescue training.
- Several agencies support your work including KCC and Kerry Airport and funding was received for the Development Plan.
- The railway amenity in the village is an important part of your heritage for which you received Leader funding. Other funding was received for landscaping the approach roads. A number of other projects were implemented with funding from various sources are mentioned in your application including the grant of €1000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development. The success in obtaining finance by one means or another for your projects is recognition of how your work is valued in the community.
- You make good use of local and social media in communicating with the community at large.
- Liaison with the school principal and parents association is noted and it is great that the Beavers took part in landscaping at the bridge on the Currow Road.
- You have focussed on completing the amenity park since 2019 which was an achievement considering the Covid restrictions.
- The submission on the N22 project is noted and thank you for the 2019 Development Plan, Review and Report.
- Thank you for the map of the area and especially for providing a portrait and landscape view. Thanks also for the photographs but we suggest it would be better to incorporate them into the application form closer to where the project is described. If putting pictures on a page, we suggest that up to four pictures can fit on one page. The less time spent looking over and back through documents the better, particularly for the person studying the application form and who may not be familiar with your village.
- The Tidy Towns Handbook has been revised and you can download it from the website. It includes plenty of suggestions for suitable projects to consider.
- Please note the icons for the 17 sustainable development goals which are printed on the application form.

These are intended to assist you in considering future projects that relate to them.

We wish to compliment you on completing the application form in a way that highlights your text from the other text on the form.

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

- You have concentrated on completing the amenity park since 2019 and now you are planning signage on its history. Thanks for the information on the history of its development and we note you are proud of your achievement.
- You have also completed a review of your development plan
- Improvements were made to the Kerry Group Plc entrance where you planted trees obtained from The Tree Council of Ireland for planting during National Tree Week.
- You are working towards having a footpath built from the Medical Centre to the village. Other pathways were improved.
- You are lucky not to have any derelict buildings/sites in the village.
- Your representations to the OPW succeeded in having the Garda Barracks painted and your ambition is to have an amenity park developed on the grounds beside the barracks where you have a lighted Christmas Tree every year.
- Landscape works at the Currow Bridge were outlined, including works done by the Local Beavers. In noting the painting of old tyres, we wish to advise that in our view, they should be recycled in the normal way and not used in landscape schemes. They detract from the natural landscape. In recent years some Tidy Towns groups have used old painted tyres for plant containers and other purposes and through these comments we are discouraging them from doing so. It would be preferable if the Beavers focused attention on the planting without using any other materials – let the plants show their value. In foliage, stems and flowers/fruits.

### **Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:**

- Items mentioned here include resurfacing the Old Tralee Road which has become a walking route in the village.
- You have mentioned the Biodiversity action plan, the outcome of which is training in hedgerow management, plant and animal identification, especially invasive species and how to control them.
- Planting of native species was done in two locations
- Bi-lingual road signage engraved in stone looks very well (this is more appropriate for the Approach Roads criterion).
- The 1916 centenary garden opposite the Pharmacy is being maintained.
- You are working on two Slí na Sláinte walking routes with the assistance of the Irish Heart Foundation.
- The 2019 report suggested a greater focus on trees and a reduction of plant containers. Have you considered that suggestion?

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

- You are following up on actions from the Biodiversity Action Plan in regard to training and raising awareness.
- Work is continuing on control of Japanese knotweed. How is this invasive plant being controlled in Farranfore by KCC. Please elaborate on this next time.
- Bee keeping has become an interest for some in Farranfore. It is a lovely hobby, and we note that 50 pots of honey are produced in a year which adds greatly to the value of the hobby. Taking care of bees is a very positive environmental activity, including the planting of pollinator friendly plants. We wish you continued success.

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

- Recycling banks are available in your community. Do you know the volume of material that is recycled through them and is not dumped in landfill?
- How many Christmas trees were shredded during your campaign last year?
- How well is the composting tub used?
- The vegetable, fruit and flower garden at the school seems impressive. We are surprised that you are collecting seeds from the flowers for growing again. That doesn't always work because in many cases, the cultivated flower seed is highly bred (F1 hybrids) which do not grow the same quality.
- The use of rain water for plant is always a good idea and saves on the expensive mains supply.
- Good luck with the poly tunnel. It will open up new opportunities for those with green fingers. It seems the plant exchange between the committee and the school is going well.
- Is the bug hotel well used? Is it monitored?
- You encourage people to avail of public transport and it is great that you have a mobile library service.
- You have provided examples of how local business recycle their materials such as pallets, installed water saving devices, the use of bio-degradable wrapping for sandwiches, community composting and a choice of reconstituted stone for seating in the amenity park.

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

- Your statistic of one million people visiting Kerry every year and most passing through Farranfore is very interesting. Well done on your efforts to control litter.
- You benefit from the Rural Social Scheme where a team of 3 people work in your area and neighbouring

villages.

- While the road sweeper is helpful, clearly you are not dependent on it with just 4 visits per year.
- Well done on being vigilant with fly posting.
- Your proposal to have landscaping work done in association with signage is very worthy and good luck with that venture.
- Resurfacing works on the Main Road has no doubt made the village look much smarter.

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

- You are fortunate not to have any vacant or derelict premises. That is a major concern for committees in other towns and villages in Ireland.
- Park View estate continues to be well-maintained.
- Work on cleaning the riverside and planting Rowan trees is noted.
- You have mentioned the several attractive mature trees in private gardens in the village. It is important to retain that character.
- Planted beds and containers are maintained by your committee assisted by the RSS workers.

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

- Approach roads and side roads are cleaned on a weekly basis. Well done.
- Planting schemes include plants which contribute greatly to biodiversity and an improved appearance.
- Oak trees were planted at Killarney entrance to the village. Please tell us more about that project next time.
- New kerbing has improved the appearance of approach roads and some landscaping was done in association with that work. Was that work, restoration of the grassed margin or did you take an opportunity to sow wildflower seed?

#### **Concluding Remarks:**

Thank you for continuing to participate in the SuperValu TidyTown Competition and well done on all your achievements. We look forward to your application in 2022.