

Tidy Towns 1996

*"Caring for our environment"*

Centre : **KILMEEDY**  
County : **LIMERICK**  
Category : **A**

**Results**

Date of Adjudication : 18-06-96

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded
Overall Developmental Approach	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14
Landscaping	40	21
The Built Environment	40	21
Litter Control	40	23
Tidiness	20	9
Residential Areas	30	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19
General Impression	10	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>153</b>

## Adjudicator's Comments

### OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Welcome to the Tidy Towns Competition in this your first year of entry. It is important to undertake a study and formulate a plan of action for the village of Kilmeedy, in order to give you a clear direction in which to work over the next few years. This will give you an overall strategy for tackling the problem areas and promoting the strengths within the community. The best of luck with your FAS scheme when it gets off the ground. The enthusiasm is obviously there to judge by the fact that over 31% of the village are involved in the committee!

### WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Perhaps the best approach to this issue of wildlife/natural amenities would be to contact local environmental groups and experts who could advise you and provide you with the information you need to tackle this broad-ranging issue. From there you can then identify the wildlife habitats of your area and see what varieties of animals, birds, fish and plantlife these attract. Involve the local schoolchildren in this project-they will hopefully bring a fresh enthusiasm for the wealth of wildlife in their locality.

### LANDSCAPING

The timber barrels filled with pansies in front of the church and along the Rathkeale road looked very well. As did the raised bed beside the white house on the same road to the Holy Year Cross. Perhaps a more welcoming space could be created here as the Cross ( a very dominant feature on the hillside above the village)currently stands in the centre of a field and the entrances into it look rather makeshift and are also very weedy.

### THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Some of the public buildings of the village of Kilmeedy looked rather neglected on Adjudication Day. The 1920's school badly needed a coat of paint. The Garda Station and boundary wall were also very neglected. There were weeds to the base of the boundary wall- and the garden was very overgrown. The Post Office and post box, on the other hand, was very fresh. The pebbledashed church railings and boundary wall all needed a fresh coat of paint. The grounds, however, were very neatly maintained. There was work in progress to the new stone wall surrounding the graveyard and new ramp. The Health Centre looked reasonably fresh, although the yellow surround could be freshened and the boundary wall needs attention as the coping is broken. The garden looked magnificent with an abundance of foxgloves and wallflowers. The boundary wall to the ESB substation on the Rathkeale road badly needs freshening up. The grounds, however, were well maintained. Browne's bar was very fresh; perhaps the plastic sign could be replaced with a more appropriate timber one. Geary's was also very fresh. Flynn's is fine traditional shop front which would benefit greatly from a fresh coat of paint.

### LITTER CONTROL

Litter Control was good on the day which was also rubbish collection day.

### TIDINESS

The weeds to the base of the boundary wall to the graveyard looked quite unsightly. As did a weedy forecourt and stained boundary wall by the yield sign. There were a lot of "keep Kilmeedy" clean signs throughout the village. Try to discourage practise of flyposting or ensure that the posters are removed once event is over, as they can give a very untidy impression. The road signs throughout the village were reasonably fresh, but could be freshened before next year's competition. The "children crossing" sign was quite faded and unreadable. The wall behind the aluminium telephone box could be re-white-washed. The Kilmeedy sign on the Rathkeale road should be painted up and the corrugated iron gate replaced. The forecourt area to Geary's is very untidy looking and grimy, and the surface is rather uneven.

## RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The standard in this category was rather high. A very attractive garden beside the graveyard filled with foxgloves was admired. Most of the houses on the Rathkeale road to the Holy Year Cross were very fresh with well maintained gardens. In particular, the white house with the green trim which displayed some lush rich overflowing hanging baskets. Another attractive garden was that to a house on the corner beside the Post Office with its simple traditional railed garden with hollyhocks. The neglected house by the children crossing sign near the school has some nice details/surrounds to the windows and would be well worth restoring to its former glory. Some houses should be freshened up before next year's competition.

## ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

You mention problems in relation to approach roads in your responses to the questionnaire, and these were very obvious on the day. The verges on the Rathkeale road were quite overgrown, but the hedgerows had been cut back. Try to bear in mind the issue of nesting birds. The Ballingarry road was quite overgrown particularly with cow parsley. The traditional Kilmeedy sign was virtually obscured and should be freshened up. Attempts had been made to clear verges on the Broadford road which, none-the-less were rather overgrown by the village sign. The Newcastle west road was of a higher standard than the others. There was a planted bed of lupins and pansies at the village sign. No effort had been made to cut back between the speed limit sign and the village name plate sign. The Rathkeale road was very potholed. The Dromcollogher road was a little bit overgrown but some effort had been made to cut back the verges.

## GENERAL IMPRESSION

There are some fine original/traditional shopfronts of worth in the village. It is important that you formulate a plan of action for Kilmeedy in order that you have a clear goal towards which to work .