

Tidy Towns 1997

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILMACOW**
County : **KILKENNY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 02-07-97

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1997	Mark Awarded 1996
Overall Developmental Approach	50	19	18
The Built Environment	40	21	20
Landscaping	40	20	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	18	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	173	167

Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

It is encouraging to read that you are receiving good local sponsorship and practical assistance for your Tidy Towns effort and that you are also getting some support from your Local Authority. Many Tidy Towns Committees are also using the FAS Youth Employment Scheme. If you are not already benefiting from this scheme, it could be a useful source of help for your Committee. Thank you for the map which was most useful on adjudication day. Experience tells us that success in the Tidy Towns Competition comes through careful planning on a 3-5 year-basis. The drawing up of such a plan need not be an onerous task but one that can be done in conjunction with your Local Authority, statutory bodies and your Community. The objective being to simply identify various items of work which you carry out on a year-to-year basis within your physical and financial resources. In the event a copy of such plan would be most useful for next years adjudication. In 1996 you received an in-depth report from the adjudicator. The following comments should be read in conjunction with that report.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

In spite of the problems you are having with derelict sites, the village was nevertheless well presented on adjudication day. The Church and Schools looked well. The sports area could do with some tidying up. Commercial premises look well. The A.O.H. building looks very drab. Continue with your efforts to get some help under the Village Renewal Scheme. It is very difficult in a small community to know what to do with derelict sites. Perhaps an approach to the owners with a suggested use for them might help and also bear in mind that your Local Authority does have powers in such matters. In other centres they are boarded up and painted to good effect.

LANDSCAPING

The comments made by last years adjudicator are still applicable. Your Committee might consider drawing up a landscaping plan to include the judicious planting of trees and shrubs. The emphasis here is on the word judicious as to do otherwise only causes clutter, the objective being, through careful planting, to soften the village landscape. In the case of shrubs you might consider those of a flowering nature which will give you some colour on an all-year-round basis. Should you plan to carry out such a scheme please do consult with your Local Authority, Coillte or some qualified person in your locality. Possibly you have one on your Committee.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Your intentions under this heading have been noted. This is a comparatively new category in the competition with the emphasis on the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats and the

environment. Woodlands, rivers, ponds, hedgerows, grass margins, open spaces, graveyards and walls are important habitats and your Committee might try to identify these habitats in your area and then determine the most appropriate action to be taken to conserve and enhance them. The guidelines in the Tidy Towns Book offer other suggestions as to the type of initiatives you might undertake. In the event please use the advice of your Local Authority or a local wildlife expert. Perhaps you have one on your Committee. Until such time as you are able to carry out some activity under this heading or have had time to consider possible initiatives, a nominal mark will be given.

LITTER CONTROL

There was practically no litter to be seen in the village on adjudication day. There was however some minor littering in the neighbourhood of the sports complex.

TIDINESS

The village was presented in a very tidy manner. Evidence of your efforts at weed killing was noticed particularly in the area of the Church carpark.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Kilmacow is highly residential and on adjudication day private houses in particular were very well presented, some with lovely gardens. This individual effort is vitally important if success is to be achieved in the Tidy Towns Competition and this is very applicable in the case of Kilmacow which is such a strung out village. The estate near the Church could do with some refurbishment.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Comments made by last years adjudicator under this heading are still somewhat applicable. The grass verge between the upper and lower village was very overgrown and should be trimmed back. Perhaps this is an area where your Local Authority may be able to help bearing in mind that there is such a long stretch to be trimmed. The present thinking however is that it should not be trimmed completely back to the hedge or fence. Some small area of grass should be left along the fence to encourage the propagation of wild flowers.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This was the adjudicators first visit to Kilmacow. The overall impression is of a very nice community environment which, on a planned basis, could be improved to achieve a higher marking in the Tidy Towns Competition.