

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KINNITTY**
County : **OFFALY**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 13-06-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	30
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	31	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	34	33
Tidiness	20	13	15
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	28
General Impression	10	7	8
TOTAL MARK	300	213	217

KINNITTY, CO. OFFALY

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Kinnitty is welcome to the 2002 Tidy Towns Competition. As noted in last year's report, there seems to be a lack of enthusiasm in your progress in the competition. Kinnitty is a very charming village and the adjudicator feels that it would be a pity to cease efforts to improve the village as so much has already been achieved. The main reason for having a three to five year plan is to help the committee to have a focused approach to improving the village, maximising the results, and achieving substantial improvements.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most premises in the village look are well presented including the Garda station with its planters, however a notable exception is the De Cleir property which looks very drab and shabby and should be renovated as soon as possible, as it is a very important building in the village. Also all neon signs in the village detract from their buildings, such as the '7 Up' sign on Coughlans and 'HB' and 'Star' on the Late Late Shop. There is quite heavy wirescape in the village centre. Has any approach been made to the County Council with regard to having this ducted? Peavoys building is situated on the most prominent position in the village centre and is extremely drab and urgently needs to be painted / tidied. The same treatment is required for the Kennedy's property with it's petrol pumps, Flogas containers, plastic signage and adjoining buildings which make up this corner onto Glenafelly Drive. The Glendine Bistro is once again beautifully presented as is the adjoining house. The very attractive building out the Tullamore Road, which the adjudicator assumes is a Community Centre or Tourist Information Office, should have a sign to identify it. The Health Centre is nicely painted but there are a lot of weeds at the entrance. Scoil Ná isiúnta Cionn Eitigh is tidy with some nice planting but the railings and the sign for the school (noted in last year's report) are badly in need of painting / refurbishing and the parking area could be better surfaced and marked out. The church and grounds in the village centre looks exceptionally well but it would be nice to see flags on the flag poles marking the entrance. The Post Office and adjoining house are well presented.

LANDSCAPING

The planted roses along the stream look very well. All mature landscaping throughout the village create a very pleasant impression and are in, general, well cared for.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Again the stream is very well presented and litter free on the day of adjudication. The amenity of Kinnitty Castle and its grounds is an important one for the village. Have you undertaken a wildlife survey of this area or the environs of the village?

LITTER CONTROL

The village centre is litter free, congratulations. There are plenty of litter bins around the village but, like many other items of street furniture, these could also be cleaned somewhat. Details of your litter management plan should be furnished with next year's application as this can gain you extra marks in the competition.

TIDINESS

The sand and gravel bags beside the wall adjacent to the Garda station should be removed and the badly overgrown adjacent yard, containing wood and broken pallets, should be screened with a good quality solid gate. There is a leaking pipe covering a lot of the road in water and slush outside the house adjacent to the Glendine Bistro, which should be fixed. There are some weeds scattered here and a very weedy side area to the un-named Drapers, the tattered awning of which should also be removed. There were a lot of weeds around the base of the small wall surrounding the large green area of the residential development on the Tullamore road and the boundary fencing of a field at the rear is tatty, with broken pallets here, making the area look very untidy. The old traffic cones opposite Kennedy's look untidy and should be removed. The lay-by opposite the church on Glenafelly Drive is also untidy, full of gravel, pot holes and weeds, which detracts greatly from the adjacent grassed area with seating. Also as mentioned in last year's report, the graffiti on the ornamental stone on the entrance to the residential estate on the Birr road should be removed.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Green areas on the Tullamore road at the housing estate are quite well kept, but most houses and boundary walls were quite drab. You don't mention whether you receive any support from residents in the village. Perhaps a fresh drive to make residents, and particularly new residents of houses under construction, aware and more concerned about their own properties and roadside areas might reap dividends. There are some very nicely maintained residential properties on the opposite side of the road to the school. Houses opposite Kennedy's on Glenafelly Drive (one of which is for sale) need to be painted to freshen.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

All approach roads have bi-lingual 'Welcome to Kinnitty' signs but almost all need to be refurbished, as was noted in last year's report. Some explanation / history could be given to the unusual stone boulder on the Birr road. Some signs in the village centre could also be cleaned but the water pumps are nicely painted. The map for the Slieve Bloom Environmental Park could also be cleaned. The free standing lampstandards in the village centre are attractive, but could do with a little cleaning. The Kilcormac approach is nicely landscaped with many different types of trees and is well cared for, congratulations. There is plenty of seating around the village but some of it is a little broken and could be refurbished. A water pump on a small road off the Tullamore Road could be repainted. The kerb and hedge opposite the Ardmore B&B house on the Tullamore road is exceptionally tidy and well kept. Stone walls throughout the village are well kept and kerbs, in general, are neatly cut. The kerbs and tree planting out the Birr road look well.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

This charming village is not experiencing its greatest year as the general impression is that overall the village has lost its sheen. Many problems made in previous year's reports still remain and it would appear that the impetus to improve the village has been lost. This is a shame as Kinnitty has a lot to offer both residents and the travelling public.