

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilrush**

Ref: **438**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **256**

Category: **D**

Date: **10/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	48	47
The Built Environment	40	36	35
Landscaping	40	37	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	34	33
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	256	251

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for a most comprehensive and informative submission outlining your administrative activity plans for 3-5 years and detailed account of your work programme. The photographic illustrations, indexed to the text is a brilliant overview of what is happening in Kilrush and enables adjudication to be thorough and accurate. You are among a small number of centres compiling such a well laid-out submission. Happily your planning aspirations are fairly well matched with practical application and the town has lived up to standards of recent years and indeed made some further progress. Getting a second adjudication is indicative of participating in the high league of Tidy Towns.

The Built Environment:

You have entered the spirit of Town Renewal in a most commendable way and the recent and current developments within the towns core in particular are of a very high standard. Your planners were good to you on day one, when the town was laid out and you have great potential for high class developments. As ever the standard of shop fronts is high and the additions of Credit Union Ltd., Charlie Martins and others further enhance this great Kilrush distinction. Those listed for praise last year looked well again, and you are gradually adding to a valuable bank of shop fronts. Public buildings were well presented and the two churches undergoing refurbishment will further raise your standard when complete. You are not without your problems and the large Ryan and Sons, Mills at the end of Frances Street is a problem. We acknowledge the problems of dereliction in and around

the town, but bit by bit you are going to have to tackle them. The biggest single favourable aspect of the Built Environment is the freshly painted buildings in the town, led by the attractive Town Hall.

Landscaping:

You have outlined in your submission the numerous improvements from last year and your ability to harness such great work via FAS is commendable. We note that this work extends to clubs and organisations within the area - so well done. Your attention to detail has given you a high mark in this section again this year and high quality of street furniture complements the high standard of landscaping. Traders and householders have backed you in your endeavours and combine to present the town, estate and approach roads in a blaze of colour. The display on the bridge and the adjacent Millennium Garden and sculpture was excellent and these were receiving attention on adjudication day.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have a grasp of what is encouraged in this section. The development of duck island and the placing of nest boxes, together with planting for food will have a beneficial effect on the promotion and popularising of wildlife. However, you are endowed with many natural habitats and even without the human hand wildlife needs are well catered for in and around Kilrush.

Litter Control:

We can sum up your performance here in one word - excellent. Your strategy of continuous attention to litter control is giving you a town free of litter, following on your great performance last year. The litter bin outside Super Valu should be replaced.

Tidiness:

Your problems here relate to the already mentioned dereliction in and around the town. The unoccupied house opposite Mace at the Malthouse Lane is a bit of an eyesore. You have a small black spot near the Naomh Og at Crofton Street that needs a clean up and the view of the large mill as you come down Hector Street is a problem.

Residential Areas:

It was a pleasure to witness such a permeation of Tidy Towns activity in all the housing estates. The collective and individual effort here is most praiseworthy. Most importantly you are winning the battle in your efforts with the residential areas leading out of town from Graces Street. Well done with your local competition for best house and garden. New developments should acknowledge the character and traditional buildings of Kilrush and use appropriate materials for such developments.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The standard of road structure is excellent throughout. The use of lime stone kerbing in the square reflects a great commitment from the local authority. Public lighting is attractive and by degrees you should aim for cable ducting where feasible. Side and rear entrances are now taking on a new dimension in the competition, and the commercial value of these accesses is highlighted in centres like Ennis. Car parking was well disciplined in the town - no doubt helped by the vigilance of the Maor Trachta who was on duty. Kilrush must have the least expensive parking rates in the country - so well done at 2 hours for 50 cent. Without exception approach roads were well presented, but in particular the Ennis approach. A visit to the Vandeleur Garden was as usual a treat and good to observe continued development, following your award of last year - oh yes well maintained toilets here also. The terraced houses along the the Court House were exceptional in presentation. Some unoccupied commercial buildings had their walls painted and is is commendable.

General Impression:

The sun shone brightly on Kilrush on the 4th July and the town was busy and cheerful. You have done well to maintain and improve your standard. Your challenge now is to build on your strengths and on your work of recent years. You are aware of your weak spots, especially in the area of dereliction - but you seem to have the commitment to deal with them - good luck in your endeavours.

Second Round Adjudication:

The yard area of the agricultural machinery showrooms on the Ennis road should be screened from public view. The new Garda Station was admired. Curved canopies should be discouraged and be replaced with traditional fabric awnings. The old Dance Hall is for sale and it's to be hoped the new owners will recognise its unique charm and maintain this in its new role (whatever that may be!) The old mill buildings at the end of the wide main street will hopefully be sensitively restored in time. The relatively new park by the waterside was admired. The Post Office looked as fresh as ever. The standard of litter control could have been higher on Second Adjudication Day. Kilrush is a charming town which is always a pleasure to revisit!