

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilworth**

Ref: **551**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **236**

Category: **B**

Date: **02/08/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	42	41
The Built Environment	40	32	31
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	19
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>233</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

A committee of 35 is a very substantial number and this shows great spirit of work and co-operation within the village. The Kilworth Renewal Development Plan 2003 pinpoints the progress of developments made to date and the focus of the work. There is a well-co-ordinated programme and this is to be commended. The continual work with the local authority is very important. With the new developments in and around the village, a careful eye needs to be kept on the manner in which these developments are finished and the sites reinstated.

### The Built Environment:

Buildings are generally well presented. The Village Arts Centre occupies a very dominant position in the village and is a worthy building to be such a focal point of the village square. The church and schools look very well as well as many of the business premises. The garda station continues to need attention to décor. Other housing along the New Road just opposite the Craft centre look a little in need of attention. The old dilapidated house on the main street with adjoining wall and incomplete railings along the top of that wall is also a difficulty. Petrol pumps at the adjoining buildings would benefit from greater attention. Natural stonewalls form a major part of the character of the village and surrounds and there are many beautiful examples. The restoration of the wall at the back of the arts centre is in progress and this is a fine venture. The old bridge at the Glenseskin Wood is a lovely stone feature and should be included in any future plans of development around that area. Revealing the bridge more clearly would be helpful.

## **Landscaping:**

There are many fine examples of well-landscaped areas within and around the village. This is an aspect that there is considerable interest in the village. The area by the corner of the craft centre, the entrances from the Fermoy Road and the Market Square look really well. Many smaller detail areas, like the little planting by the water pump that the bees appear to have colonized and the area opposite the post office, are good examples. Many attractive gardens of individual houses help greatly in this regard as well. The Pound Lane displays many lovely gardens. The cemetery behind the arts centre is well maintained and pleasant to wander through. The area by the community housing has some concrete block walls which are not the most attractive, especially when contrasted against the stonewalls opposite. Some wall covering plants would be helpful there. The many planted containers around the village are an added colour attraction and the school on the Mill Road has a beautiful display in this regard with children noticed tending these during the visit.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The area at Glensskin Wood seems to have very good possibilities. Some structural work at the entrance to make a small carpark, clean up the entrance and expose the bridge would be a good start and then information relating to the actual walk would be welcome. The road into the wood was temporarily closed during the visit due to works, but it was evident that a walk along the woodlands offers possibilities. There is lovely range of plants growing from some of the walls in the village surrounds including valerian and ferns. Over-clearing of the walls and the base verges beneath the wall may be a little severe and can give a very stark and unnatural appearance – a balance has to be struck between the clinical and the wild.

## **Litter Control:**

There is a very high standard under this section with evidence of a good litter management system. People were noted cleaning the litter and weeds in the open areas during the visit. The litterbins in some places were full and this is always dangerous, as birds tend to be able to tear litter from the bins. The bottle recycling banks were noted.

## **Tidiness:**

There is a very tidy appearance to the village with very good attention to detail, especially notable along the roadside approaches. The building developments taking place at the moment do cause some untidiness as buildings sites always do. These are temporary in nature. It is important that these sites are finished off well and that the areas around them are properly reinstated – the Tidy Towns committee has a role here in keeping an eye on such developments to ensure that developers do not leave the site until they are finished off properly. The areas where houses need attention or are dilapidated in some way, as mentioned earlier, cause some untidiness. The area by the sides of the garda station are unhelpful. The picnic area is very tidy and well maintained and similarly the square. Overhead cables, when removed underground, will be very helpful. The depot for storage of roads materials at the approach road entrance off the main road needs attention.

## **Residential Areas:**

The new estates are becoming a significant part of the village now. These look well, but will need attention with good landscaping and finishing. Tree planting in any open green spaces is very important so as to properly incorporate the estates into the village. The older residences are well tended and the Pound Lane houses were looking really well, as were those at Brennan Place. Individual houses along the approach roads and houses within the village are well maintained and it is good to have so many residences within the village centre. The containerised plantings presented by many householders provide welcome colour for the summer.

## **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The approach road from the Fermoy Road along by the picnic area is very well presented. The beautiful hedging, walls and well-kept grass verges make this a particularly attractive entrance. The road surfaces need a little attention in places. Footpaths have been improved in places but, as has been correctly stated in the presentation with the application form, there are many that continue to need attention and hopefully pressure will be kept up to get this work completed. The new housing estates need paving to allow access by walking to the village. Without this, walking becomes a dangerous pursuit. Such paving should be in place before houses are occupied.

## **General Impression:**

There is a marvelous spirit of village life in Kilworth. The structures are well in place and there is a true centre to the village at the square. With the increased in population arising from the occupation of the new housing estates, the village should be strengthened and yet continue to have the unique village atmosphere.

## **Second Round Adjudication:**

Litter control was very good in Kilworth on the day of second adjudication. Well done! Limestone herbs to footpaths in the village centre were noted and admired. Footpaths must be reinstated at the recycling facilities. Incidental landscaped amenity areas are attractively presented, as are container flower displays. Semi-mature trees in the square appear to be thriving and continue to enhance the core of Kilworth. The use of the old church as an arts centre is appropriate. Although, construction work was in progress on new residential developments and footpaths, the village was still presented in a neat and tidy manner; this is no small achievement. The village is poised for substantial growth and appears to be able to assimilate this growth with ease. The ducting of service cables at some stage in the future is anticipated. Cumann Cilluire is neatly presented and features attractive entrance gates. Plain cement finish town houses would be enhanced in their appearance with the featuring of colourful flower displays. This picnic area and lay-by is excellent. Your strongest point in the competition is in landscaping.