

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kiskeam**

Ref: **511**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **232**

Category: **A**

Date: **04/08/2003**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2003 | Mark Awarded 2002 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 37 | 36 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 33 | 31 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 33 | 33 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 15 | 15 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 35 | 35 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 16 | 15 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 25 | 25 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 30 | 28 |
| General Impression | 10 | 8 | 8 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 232 | 226 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

There has been a steady improvement in the village of Kiskeam over the last number of years and the development process is working extremely well. The plan put forward is comprehensive and focused directly on the important issues. Further success will follow when the items on the plan come to fruition. With the past record of the committee and determination the future of Kiskeam can only be good.

The Built Environment:

The many very well painted business premises and dwelling houses throughout the village and surrounds gives the village a very unique character. The colours chosen are very interesting and make a great impact. The church and surrounds look well and the island of trees in the carpark is well placed, showing somebody's forward thinking in the past. The community hall and GAA buildings look very fresh with the black and white paint scheme. The Millennium Garden is of great interest and forms a very important part of the fabric of the built environment as it utilises stone so well. The many stone-wall features are attractive; the raised borders opposite the "Why Not" public house and also those at the church with the built-in seating are attractive features. The stonewall along by the "Old Hag" sculpture is an asset to the village. The sculpture is also a fine addition. The building plan for the school was noted on display inside the church and the reason why the old school is unpainted can be understood. The Co-op building needs a little paint attention, as do premises across the road from this. The mural looks very well and an interesting inclusion in the

village. Some graffiti on this building requires attention. The derelict houses behind the "Why Not" needs painting. It is a good idea to paint these buildings, but once started this must be kept up. Similarly, all paint colours that attract attention need to be kept in top condition or they become quickly noticeable and tacky. The community housing is attractively presented in a bright yellow colour.

Landscaping:

There are many fine examples of good landscaping in the village. On the approach roads from the Mallow side, the roadside shrub plantings are very comprehensive with a great range of shrubs and trees giving interest at several times of the year. These are maintained very well and add greatly to the entrance of the village. The planting in raised borders at the church and opposite the "Why Not" are very nicely chosen. The huge stand of sycamore trees behind the post office and also in the surrounding countryside are a reminder that these trees were planted by people who could never have hoped to see them in their fine maturity. These trees will not live forever and new plantings of the same tree types ("real trees" – not small garden trees) should be made for the next two generations to enjoy. The beech hedge planted behind the stonewall opposite the post office looks very well and confers a high quality aspect on the village. The planting in the school grounds is also very attractive. Many individual gardens on the approach roads contribute very well to the landscape of the village by their well planted and tended gardens.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The area opposite the grotto offers great potential. Hopefully, the difficulties with the acquisition of lands will be resolved and that the wildlife appreciation projects can be initiated. The river is a marvelous advantage and interesting possibilities can be achieved.

Litter Control:

There is a very good standard of litter control in the village and surrounds. Minor amounts of litter were noted at the carpark of the "Why Not". Constant vigilance is needed to ensure that a good attitude to litter control is present.

Tidiness:

The village has a very tidy appearance. The unfinished houses beside the Millennium Garden are a little untidy. The carpark opposite the "Why Not" could have a better surface and there is some debris accumulation there. The car park around the community centre needs attention, in particular surface weeds that are growing in places and the definition of the edge area. Behind the "Harp and Shamrock" there is an area visible from the road which looks a little untidy and needs to be organised.

Residential Areas:

The many individual residences along the street and on the approach roads are very well kept and contribute well to the appearance of the village, as outlined above. The Old Moylan Terrace needs attention at the entry where the first house wall is in need of paint and some accumulation of materials is present by the side. The railings to the front could also be improved. The new Moylan Terrace is well maintained. The grassed area to the front is currently being used for car sales and this is unusual and perhaps unsafe with so many young children about. New houses at the end, currently being built, are causing a little disruption at the moment.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads are very well tended. The markings are very clear and surfaces are in good condition. The grass banks on the roadsides of the approach roads are being treated with good

regard. Attractive roadside grassed verges help the appearance by displaying many wild flowers; severe cutbacks are less attractive.

General Impression:

There is a very good spirit of development within the village. Great progress has been made. The village is now very attractive in colour and in general appearance. The plantings are particularly attractive.

Second Round Adjudication:

New stone walls with young trees planted behind and the new sculpture form an excellent introduction to Kiskeam at this end of the village. Newly surfaced footpaths are complemented by freshly painted buildings, however, the old school and creamery could be painted to freshen their appearance. The church and its carpark looked magnificent. Most residential properties were presented to a high standard, but some boundary walls were in need of attention. Litter control appears to be very good, flower displays are attractive and shrubberies are maturing nicely. The roadside boundary treatment of the "Why Not" bar and lounge was admired and hopefully the car park itself will be resurfaced. The car park of the new community centre should be landscaped now. The new "Stone Garden" was admired as was the graveyard. Local Walks and nature trails should be sign-posted from the village.