

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilbrittain**

Ref: **547**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **229**

Category: **A**

Date: **27/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	33
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	21
Litter Control	40	33	34
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	229	221

Overall Developmental Approach:

The 3 to 5 year plan presented with the entry form shows clearly the intentions of the tidy towns committee and is an excellent approach. Having a time scale is important in such a plan and each year the plans progress can be assessed and changes made where needed. The photographs and the map with carefully numbered items to be looked at was a great help at adjudication time.

The Built Environment:

The amount of stonewall building that has taken place in the village is remarkable and great strides have been made with the wall projects. The wall by the cemetery is excellent and the wall at the amenity park is also a very good achievement. The retention of the old stone walls at the new housing development is a good idea and will help to tie in the old with the new very well.

The Church, School, Parish hall, and Community center at the sports field are all good buildings and form a significant part of the village community. The Garda station is attractively painted and occupies a very prominent position in the village. The colourfully painted houses and other premises through the village are really impressive and give great life to the village. The incorporation of new housing within the village center is a welcome project – so often new housing estates are built away from the village and they do not easily become integrated into the village life. Kearney's garage is resplendent in its striking blue paint colour.

Landscaping:

The grotto area has been very nicely treated and the surrounds are restful and serene. The water feature is well placed. The large copper beech tree and purple maple tree give a lovely atmosphere in the grotto and the adjoining small garden. The seating and the landscaping - where railway sleepers have been used to good effect has all resulted in a very fine project. Planting of containers through the village gives a colourful summer lift to the village. Great efforts are paying off at the cemetery and the church and school grounds are all maintained well. The landscaped roadside area along the road to the waterfall was admired greatly.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Amenity Park is a good development. The sundial and information about time was noted. At present the grass and picnic tables comprise the amenity park. This is a useful space. Adding plants attractive to birds and butterflies could make improvements here. Bird feeders and nesting boxes as well as tree planting for cover would also help. The surface of the approach path is rough and an improvement here would be welcome. The Waterfall picnic site is a wonderful place with tables concealed by the trees at the river. The bridges, both stone and timber are lovely and the background forest setting with the sound of the waterfall makes this a delightful place. Local knowledge about the types of wild life spotted would be helpful as well as the general set of birds, which is displayed. The range of plants is interesting and a project relating to gathering local information and making a compilation of interesting things to see, where and when could be very worthwhile as it would relate specially to the village and surrounds.

Litter Control:

There is a very clean standard under this heading through the village. Some litter was noted however at the Amenity Park and a little at the Waterfall picnic area too. These locations are difficult to keep well as often they are places where people eat and maybe forget about the litter that gets blown about. Extra vigilance is needed.

Tidiness:

The current building construction work for the new houses is causing some disruption. It is important that all building sites are finished off well and the site reinstated before builders leave the site. The tidy towns committee could keep a watchful eye in this regard. The removal of overhead cables hopefully can be achieved hopefully in the not too distant future. The cables for the lighting at Castle View are underground ducted and this makes a big difference. The entrance to the Community centre area/Castle View estate could be improved a little with attention to detail of grass care and the actual entrance from the road. The Kilbrittan name signs on entry to the village are well placed and the stone surround is impressive.

Residential Areas:

Castle View housing estate looks well and the houses and gardens are cared for well. Each home can make a good contribution by their attention to their properties. The new housing on the main street looks well and the stone-faced front of the buildings is attractive, keeping the theme of the many fine walls in the village. Individual houses on the approach roads are well cared for and these form an important part of the appearance of the approach roads.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roads are well tended. Some attention to road surfacing is needed in places and your campaign to have road improvements hopefully will meet with success soon. The roadside verges on the approach to the waterfall area are attractively treated and great effort is apparent in this area. On approach to the village from the Bandon side, new walls by the cemetery give a welcome entrance. The cemetery itself is very stark and if there was any possibility of tree planting in the vicinity of this

it would be helpful – perhaps at one or two of the perimeter walls if a planting strip could be acquired outside the walls.

General Impression:

Great strides are being made with developments and the efforts to conserve the links with the past are paying off. The yearly schedule of the committee as outlined in the plans provides a good approach to the continued concerted effort.