

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildare**

Ref: **92**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **145**

Category: **E**

Date: **12/07/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	26	26
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	19	19
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	12	12
Litter Control	40	13	14
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	20
General Impression	10	4	4
TOTAL MARK	300	145	147

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your submission that included an excellent map of the town. Your submission should have included a brief long-term plan and a schedule of work completed during the year. The plan will help you identify what can be done to improve the town over the next few years and the resources you will require. The work completed schedule will allow you to monitor your achievements on a regular basis.

The Kildare Tidy Towns group has been working in co-operation with the local authority. The group is small in relation to the size of the town and an effort should be made to increase the number of members.

The Built Environment:

Kildare has its origins in an Early Christian ecclesiastical settlement and continued to develop during the medieval, 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. The town plan consists of a triangular market area around which elements from most periods of the town's history are arranged. Likewise, the town fabric consists of a range of fine residential and public buildings that date from most of the historic development periods of the town. The town is currently experiencing considerable expansion in terms of housing and industry.

Landscaping:

The landscape of the central triangle look very attractive, with the trees, planting and hanging baskets. The failure to implement the landscaping proposals on the main approach routes is disappointing for the Group. On the edge of the town the Japanese Gardens are a wonderful feature. Also, the National Stud is important. The Group might consider a way of linking the three elements together, perhaps in the form of a landscape trail.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Japanese Gardens, the National Stud and the surrounding landscape present wonderful potential for the development of a wildlife project, perhaps a nature walk.

Litter Control:

Litter management and control remains a major problem for the town. Substantial instances of litter were noted along the approach roads, in the town centre and in the housing areas.

Tidiness:

Apart from the litter, the town centre looked very attractive - especially the Triangle. The Triangle is one of the most historic and significant open spaces at a national level. It is a pity, therefore, that so much space is given over to car parking. Weed management is a problem in many areas around the town.

Residential Areas:

The residential areas around the town are generally nicely managed and maintained, with neat houses, attractive gardens, attractive open spaces, flowers, shrubs trees and entrance signs.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to the town are dull and disappointing, particularly in the context of the town's status as a 'Heritage Town'. The roads have poorly managed verges, weeds and dusty signs. The town streetscape, in contrast, is most attractive with its open space, range of architecture and landscaping.

General Impression:

Kildare possesses a wonderful range of spaces, fabric and streetscapes. It can be expected that over the next few years the environment of the town will gradually improve through the work of the Tidy Towns Group and the local community.