

# Tidy Towns Competition 2003

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcormac**

Ref: **716**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **200**

Category: **B**

Date: **09/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	
The Built Environment	40	27	
Landscaping	40	29	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	
Litter Control	40	24	
Tidiness	20	15	
Residential Areas	30	21	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	
General Impression	10	7	
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>200</b>	

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome back to the competition after a six year absence. Kilcormac is a town with great character and deserves to reach its full potential. It is encouraging to see that already you have a committee of sixteen members and that others are anxious to join in your endeavours. Situated on the Offaly Way and Lough Boora walking routes, it would be important that the wellbeing of the town is looked after, primarily for the residents themselves, but also for the sake of visitors coming to Kilcormac. The fact that you liaise with and receive support from the local community and various statutory bodies is commendable. This partnership approach is the best way to achieve your long term goals. Thank you for well completed entry form, map and action plan which were helpful on the day of adjudication.

### The Built Environment:

On Kilcormac's long main street most of the business premises were well presented. Other buildings also well maintained were the church and the Kilcormac Convent of Mercy. It was noted that a new extension was in the course of being built at Kilcormac Vocational School. Also, at Scoil Naisiunta - Scoil Mhuire 1965, the lettering here needed attention. The prominent Fiesta Ballroom is in need of a facelift and there is also a problem with a derelict building at the junction to Ballyboy. You do not mention the old Mill Building in your documentation - are there any plans in regard to same? In general, premises should be encouraged to revert to traditional type signage instead of plastic signage which is not in keeping with the heritage of the town.

## **Landscaping:**

The riverside area of Kilcormac is very attractive and the stone bridge for walkers was admired, although the excess stones, etc. used in this project need to be removed. The two picnic tables are set in pleasant surroundings and should prove popular. Tree planting on the approach roads and in the park is maturing nicely and provides character to these locations. The colourful hanging baskets provided around the town were also admired.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The planting undertaken contributes in this category, especially the berried rowan trees planted opposite McDonald International. A large "butterfly" or buddleia bush was also noted near the bridge by the riverside where many bird species were to be seen. We note your plans for a wildlife study of the area and for wildlife habitat conservation.

## **Litter Control:**

Unfortunately, there was a good sprinkling of litter in and around the town, despite the provision of litter bins. Also, in some cases these litter bins needed to be refurbished or replaced. A litter strategy needs to be put in place, making people more aware of the problem and the need for them to co-operate in your campaign.

## **Tidiness:**

The town was mostly neat, tidy and weedfree including the side streets. The area by the handball alley where the two walking routes are signposted was neat and tidy. However, we would suggest that some planting would enhance this area. Ivy should also be removed from the stone walls by the riverside walk. Both inside and outside the graveyard on the Kinnitty approach was very well presented and a gentleman was just arriving with a lawnmower and strimmer to keep up this good work. There is good tree planting at McDonalds International, screening off this area, but unfortunately, the rather untidy yard was still visible here. In the long term, Kilcormac should consider underground ducting of electric cables as the poles and wiring throughout the town are very obtrusive.

## **Residential Areas:**

Private houses in and around Kilcormac were mostly contributing to the Tidy Towns effort. It should be remembered that the maintenance of surround walls is as important as maintaining the property itself. The large housing estate with two signs for Pairc Naomh Cormaic was noted and the pleasant green areas with mature trees were admired. The two signs for this estate were quite large plastic signs and we would suggest these be changed to good wooden or stone signage which would be more appropriate. Many new houses are at present being built in an around Kilcormac and this presents an opportunity for the Tidy Towns Committee to involve these new residents in your work.

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

Kilcormac is a busy town with much through-traffic and quite a number of approach roads. This presents quite a challenge for the committee. Signage throughout the town was rather mixed with some signs well maintained and others needing attention, including the sign for the Silver River which needs to be replaced. It was also noted that the pavement was badly broken in one area on the main street. Most of the approach roads were well trimmed back. The fact that green areas and planting has been put in place in a number of locations on these roads is commendable.

## **General Impression:**

The commitment of the new Kilcormac Tidy Towns Association is obvious and the town has the potential to do well in the competition in future years. Attention to detail is very important and we would suggest that before new projects are tackled that you ensure that what is already in place is maintained to the highest standard.

Good luck in your future endeavours.