

Tidy Towns Competition 2003

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmuckrioge**

Ref: **359**

County: **Wexford**

Mark: **200**

Category: **C**

Date: **08/06/2003**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2003	Mark Awarded 2002
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	
The Built Environment	40	32	
Landscaping	40	27	
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	
Litter Control	40	27	
Tidiness	20	15	
Residential Areas	30	20	
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	
General Impression	10	7	
TOTAL MARK	300	200	

Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome back to Tidy Towns after a number of years absence. It is hoped that you will be able to foster a good working relationship with the various relevant statutory bodies and the local community. Your immediate action plan certainly made interesting reading, and seemed quite sensible and achievable. The adjudicators look forward to reading your work programme when you enter the competition next year.

The Built Environment:

Boggan's looked most attractive and well maintained as did Hugo's Restaurant. The attractive facade of the "castle" was admired - it is to be hoped that this will be restored to its former glory in time. Some of the shop signage in the village was in need of attention, that is, cleaning down. Plastic signage should be discouraged and replaced with signs of a more traditional timber variety. The old stepped gabled hall looked quite charming and should be painted before next year's competition. The hanging baskets on the village side of Sean-Og's Bar and its attractive stone walling were admired. Perhaps the car park area opposite could be landscaped in some way in order to soften its rather bare appearance. There are too many stickers in the window of the supermarket - these give the shopfront a rather cluttered appearance. The vocational college was admired for its charming appearance - perhaps some trees could be planted at the boundary further away from the village as at the moment it looks rather bare. The post office was well maintained as was the school, church and graveyard.

Landscaping:

The landscaped areas in the village were well maintained. Of particular note, was the attractive planted area to the front of Hugo's Restaurant and adjacent to the recycling bins. The magnificent overhanging horse chestnut tree in the village centre is a marvelous natural asset. There is scope for further development in this aspect of the competition through further development of incidental landscaped areas. Glanbia was fine, but would be ideal for a landscaping or tree planting project. The attractive picnic area opposite was admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It was disappointing to note that you had left this section of the application form blank. Kilmuckridge is ideally located by the River Ford - an area of immense natural and wildlife interest. Consult local wildlife experts about the habitats in your area and the maintenance of same. Get the local school children involved in investigating areas of wildlife interest in their locality.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was reasonably good. An overturned bin by the shop, adjacent to the hall, created a bad impression and there was a very light scattering of litter at the central area of the village. But generally, given the numbers of visitors to the village, the standard was quite good.

Tidiness:

The recycling corner you have identified as a problem area. Certainly, on the day, rubbish and boxes had been dumped here. Dumping is, of course, an activity that should be strongly discouraged. It would be worth contacting Wexford County Council in order to organise more frequent collections which would help address the problem. The signage board at the front of the supermarket should be removed and replaced with one in better condition. The building at the crossroads opposite Boggan's looks somewhat neglected and hopefully will be improved upon in time, as it is in a very prominent location. Weed control was generally quite good on the day, although some weeds were evident along the roadside between Greenwood Avenue and the church junction. Do ensure that untidy yard areas are screened from public view.

Residential Areas:

The standard in this category of the competition was generally quite good - both individual houses and estates being well maintained. One or two forecourt areas to the front of houses looked rather rough - try to encourage people to extend their area of interest to the roadsides immediately in front of their houses. Both Greenwood Avenue Estate and Beechbrook Park were well maintained. Silverdale is a very attractive development which is quite in keeping with an Irish village. A house with an attractive garden on the Blackwater Road was admired as were the pretty cottages opposite Boggan's. An attractive thatched cottage opposite the church looked well and the adjudicator was pleased to note that it had retained its original up and down sash windows.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The standard in this category of the competition was generally good. The relatively new ash trees along the Kilnamanagh Road were coming along nicely and the grass verges had been cut. The Gorey Road was also well maintained. The road to Morris Castle Strand is a most attractive one, with stone walls each side and overhanging trees. Church Lane, unfortunately, was not to the same high standard - some weeds were apparent. Presumably this is due to Wexford County Council's plans for the road. Do ensure that the village pump is retained, either in this location or somewhere appropriate. In terms of signage, the directional signs by Hugo's appeared quite grubby.

General Impression:

Kilmuckridge is an extremely attractive village with much to offer the visitor. It is most unusual and charming. The village has made a very good re-entry into the competition after a long absence. Congratulations all round.