

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killeshandra**

Ref: **205**

County: **Cavan**

Mark: **192**

Category: **B**

Date: **28/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	28
The Built Environment	40	29	29
Landscaping	40	25	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	27	27
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	192	192

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank you for the really excellent map of Killeshandra that was really useful on adjudication day. The brief document on the work carried out for this year's competition was also most helpful.

The really successful Tidy Towns Committees are those that succeed in harnessing the goodwill, skills and experience of a number of different groups and Agencies that have something to contribute to the implementation of the 3-5 Year Tidy Towns Plan. These groups and Agencies include the following –

- GAA
- Local Development Association
- FAS
- County Council
- Local SuperValu outlet
- LEADER Company
- The CLAR Programme (if you are in a CLAR designated area)
- Local School or schools
- Urban & Village Renewal Grant Scheme

It is encouraging to see that you are already working with some of these agencies and organisations.

The adjudicator notes that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted with the entry documentation.

All towns and villages are required to have a simple straight forward 3 –5 Year Tidy Towns Plan for their area. This Plan is prepared by your Committee in consultation with the appropriate local organisations. It should be no more than seven to ten pages long. The purpose of the Plan is to guide the work of your Tidy Towns Committee and others over the short to medium term. You will find such a document to be of great help to you. The implementation of such a plan may also help you to secure additional marks.

Your involvement in the Town & Village Renewal Programme should bring great benefits to the town when the programme is completed.

The Built Environment:

Killeshandra is an attractive small town built on the top of a small hill with the main street running down hill on both sides. Also the number of lakes surrounding the town adds much added interest to the casual visitor.

New pavements, road surfacing and street lighting was noted in several areas. It would be great if the overhead cables could be put underground over a three year programme. The old Church presently under going restoration from the outside\looks to be a very interesting building with beautiful windows especially on the front elevation. At the Fire Station the road boundary walls and the tower all need to be painted. At the Bring Centre the car park here was rather disorganised and the lining of the surface area here with car \spaces is recommended. Some colourful landscaping here would help to lift the tone of this area. The recycling area itself was quite neat and tidy. The Hall building here needs to be painted, The landscaped area here above the car parking area wall has matured well and is being well maintained. Some landscaping at the Church would add some needed colour.

At the catholic Church and Graveyard the rough looking concrete block walls should be plastered and perhaps painted, though good plastering on its own may be all that is necessary. At the nearby National School the presentation was quite smart with the black painted railings. At the Church of Ireland Church and Hall a little more landscaping and some weeding would improve the overall presentation.

Have you considered replacing some of the shop front signs in the town with signs that use more traditional materials such as timber and hand-painted lettering. This could be approached on a co-operative basis.

Projecting advertising signs were noted on a number of premises in the town centre and this needs attention. The issue is how many of these signs are really essential from a commercial point of view?

The Resource Centre building is set off attractively by the cobble lock paving and the good landscaping. Have you considered providing some seating at The Strand amenity area.

A few derelict buildings were noted that detract from the overall appearance of the built environment of your town / village. However there is a way in which perhaps you can make a feature of these buildings pending their removal or restoration. Try and get the owners to agree that they will blank out the window and door openings with heavy waterproof Marine plywood. This should then be painted matt black, and window bars and door panels painted in in white. This approach as a temporary measure can look quite effective.

Landscaping:

Many hanging baskets and other flower displays were noted and you have obviously planted additional shrubs this year. Very attractive mature landscaping was noted at the old Railway Bridge site. There is potential to upgrade the landscaping at The Strand area. Indeed this area has a rather

neglected feel to it. Good work was done in the past in providing this lovely amenity but perhaps the on going maintenance has not been carried out on a frequent basis. A programme to upgrade this lovely water side area is recommended.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Castlehamilton Demesne scenic walk is a great feature to have so close to your town. In many towns and villages this is an aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition where there can be significant potential for development. All towns and villages have the presence of wildlife to some degree. It is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine the wildlife potential, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly.

If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat Survey carried out of the wildlife in your area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, lakes, canals, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The Survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to your area

This need not be an expensive Survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person in one of your Schools who might undertake this task for you. Basically the Survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the Survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year.

Using the results of the Wildlife Survey your next step should be do draft a straight forward Plan to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. For example perhaps there is an old Pond in your area that is disused, but with a little work could be an important area for wildfowl.

It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many Schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get involved.

As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof and vandal proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

Litter Control:

Litter control again this year was quite good. It is very important that your Committee would develop a litter control plan for your town / village. The issue of litter control is not an issue just for the Local Authority. All citizens and especially your Tidy Towns Committee have a key role to play. Your plan should include such issues as surveying the litter bins that you have in your community and their adequacy, clean up days and the role of your local schools.

It is most important that litter bins are placed in close proximity to the largest generators of litter. The regular emptying of a litter bins if of course essential.

Litter was noted on the Carrigallen approach road but especially at The Strand despite the fact that a litter bin is located here.

Tidiness:

The Tuesday clean up programme is a great idea that is working for Killeshandra. On the lower end of Main Street an untidy undeveloped site was noted and perhaps some screening can be used here pending the development of the site. Watch out for other casual small openings between houses some of which have bad weed and grass growth. In some instances mature grass growth was noted in roof gutters. Apart from other considerations this should be removed to avoid water damage to the buildings involved.

At The Strand the pile of old tarmac and stones inside the entrance on the right provided a poor entrance to one of the prime amenity areas of Killeshandra. A genuine upgrading of this whole area is highly recommended. On the road to The Strand some abandoned vehicles were noted at a premises with blue gates, and perhaps this area can be screened from public view. On Church Street the railings here should be painted if possible.

Residential Areas:

There appears to be a great spirit of cooperation among the residents of some of the estates. At Railway Road housing estate some planting of groups of trees would help to improve the open spaces. It is understood that the Sub-Committee on this estate are doing great work, and congratulations from your adjudicator for your good work. As in many towns and villages in Co. Cavan many private properties were very attractively presented some with fine mature landscaping.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The overall presentation of all approach roads is of critical importance. It is this that gives the first impression of your town or village. Attractive well presented approach roads give a great impression of a community that cares about how others see them.

Some good recent work has been done on the Cavan approach road. On other roads some verges had been cut but not on a regular basis.

Your verges have been cut but the cut grass has not been taken away. The result is an untidy appearance with new grass growth trying to grow through the dead cut grass. Can you make a rule for yourselves and your helpers that all cut grass must be taken away on the day that it is cut. Do remember also that verges will need to be cut on quite a regular basis if you are to achieve a lush green well kept appearance of banks and roadside verges. A tractor and mower will not give the neat well kept appearance that can be achieved by a motor mower.

A problem with Arva approach road is that there is no road kerb to divide the road surface from the grass verge. A frequent result of this is that verges get badly damaged by parked vehicles. This is a problem especially where the grass verges are wide. Do talk to your Local Authority Engineer about this difficulty. If kerbing looks out of place in your rural setting then perhaps large stones can be used by the Local Authority to define the edge of the roadway.

General Impression:

The level of local cooperation with your Tidy Towns activities seems to have improved since last year. Real success will come when everyone in the town is working together towards the implementation of an agreed Tidy Towns plan for Killeshandra.