

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilkee**

Ref: **288**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **239**

Category: **C**

Date: **01/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	46	46
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	26	26
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>236</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for entry form, ancillary documentation and map of Kilkee. Your fifteen person Committee obviously work hard throughout the year to ensure that the town is looking its best and also to plan future strategic developments. The partnership approach you adopt with some twelve groups is the way to achieve your aims. Of course, your most influential partner is Clare County Council who have responsibility for the maintenance of Kilkee and we note your ongoing discussions and correspondence with them on a number of matters which hopefully will be resolved in the not too distant future.

### The Built Environment:

Ninety per cent of trading business premises in the town were well presented. Also, the shop/tea room at the Pollock Holes. In this category it was very heartening to note that a number of the derelict premises in the town which had been a problem for some years have now been purchased and refurbished. Hopefully this trend will continue, especially to the derelict house opposite Hodges Green which is very visible. Public buildings were mostly looking well - the School on the Carrigaholt road is rather stark and some planting here would soften the image. The gable end of the Kilkee Boat and Fishing Club still presents a poor appearance to the George's Head roadway.

### Landscaping:

Work was taking place at Hodges Green which has been a very visible poor area for the last few years - this will brighten up the East End considerably. The planting in and around the town was admired - to maintain same is quite a commitment. One of the picnic tables at George's Head is still missing a seat on one side. This is a small item but it would appear that a carpenter would take half an hour to rectify this and attention to this type of detail is important. The street furniture at the promenade and shelters were bright and fresh looking as usual. Businesses are contributing to your efforts by providing colourful window boxes and Hotel grounds have also been nicely landscaped.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The information display boards already in place are informative for visitors. No doubt you are considering initiating further projects under this heading in the future. The Tidy Towns handbook may assist you in deciding on what area you want to explore. Congratulations to Kilkee on obtaining a Blue Flag in 2004.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter control was quite good in June with just a smattering to be seen in the centre of the town and on the approaches. Litter bins were in place at strategic points. In high season the litter situation needs managing and it is good to hear that you hope to have a Litter warden on duty during that period. Your work with business premises was noted in this regard. Also the litter awareness signs in strategic positions.

### **Tidiness:**

The town mostly had a tidy appearance. However, there was some building and garden debris to be seen on the Dunlicky road. All builders and developers should be requested to leave a neat and tidy site when they finish. Kerbs were weed free throughout.

### **Residential Areas:**

The infill housing at present being built in a number of locations is to be welcomed. Other private residences in and around Kilkee are contributing to your efforts, many with colourful and well maintained gardens. A small proportion of houses still need to paint the surround walls as well as the premises.

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

This was your main problem last year and is again this year. There were some road works taking place near the promenade and on the Dunlicky road but these looked as if pipes were being laid rather than resurfacing taking place. However, we note that you do have a commitment from Clare County Council to resurface the Dunlicky road at the end of this season and no doubt this programme of road resurfacing will extend to other areas of the town in due course.

### **General Impression:**

The Tidy Towns concept and the work of the Committee is definitely continuing to have a beneficial influence on Kilkee. Keep up the good work.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

The second adjudication took place on probably one of the busiest days of the year and was a good test to show how facilities coped. The combination of Sunday afternoon August bank holiday weekend and market activity in progress in the town combined to give an extremely busy day. The freshly painted blue and white seating and buildings along the seafront were admired. The huge

amount of new housing in and around the town is changing the face of Kilkee. Older buildings contribute to the character of the town and the terraced single storied buildings by the seafront look well. It is good to see that developments are taking place on some of the derelict sites. The road surfaces as mentioned above are particularly poor in places. A more restrictive carparking regime is needed - people wheeling baby buggies were noted in difficulty as cars were parked on pavements leaving no space for pedestrians. All the outdoor catering furniture outside pubs and restaurants while presenting a very festive feature also needs some control. The environmental audit presented with the entry material is a very useful idea and serves well to pinpointing progress and achievements.