

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilrush**

Ref: **52**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **260**

Category: **D**

Date: **01/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	48	48
The Built Environment	40	37	36
Landscaping	40	38	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	25
Litter Control	40	35	34
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	27
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>256</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

As usual the comprehensive submission, photographic back up, map and up to date report was very well put together with much effort and hard work being undertaken to ensure that all the activities engaged in by Kilrush Tidy Towns Committee were fully outlined. The work of this twenty two person Committee is commendable and an example for others. Dividing the group into sub-committee with each having their own task is obviously successful. The partnership approach with fifteen other bodies as outlined in the entry form, of course, is also the only way to achieve your aims. Two of these were noted to also be contributing in special ways on the day of adjudication – the Chamber of Commerce by producing the helpful Calendar of Events for Kilrush 2004 which was in every shop and the large cardboard cut out in the Super-Valu supermarket asking everyone if they were doing their bit for the Tidy Towns effort. Outside of these, it is also obviously that you have motivated most of the community to assist with your efforts and again this is the only way to achieve the highest success in the competition.

### The Built Environment:

The built environment continues to improve and most of the commercial premises in and around the town were looking well. The new Archway constructed at the entrance to Malthouse Lane helps this area considerably. We noted that the two Churches are still being refurbished and when completed, will also add to the improved appearance of Kilrush. However, as the town improves the areas of dereliction stand out more. One of these is O'Duibirs in the Square. A long term solution must be

found for this premises but until this happens perhaps the exterior could be painted to brighten up its appearance. Repainting of some other premises such as Kilrush Cleaners would also improve the heart of the town. There are three old Mill buildings, a large corner premises and the old Cinema/Dance Hall for sale on Francis Street and no doubt these will improve on purchase. In general the use of colour throughout was attractive. Plastic signage is obviously being removed in some places and no doubt your campaign to eliminate same as far as possible will continue. The surround wall of the Golden Vale premises on the Kilkee road needed attention and indeed the whole building could do with refurbishment. The new Fire Station, the Garda Barracks and Enterprise House were admired, in the case of the latter it would be good if the grounds down to the sea were landscaped as this would enhance the Marina area further. The cleaning and painting by FAS of the Old Well on the Kilkee Rd. has brought about a great improvement.

### **Landscaping:**

Your work here is tremendous and what impressed the adjudicator was that good planted areas and seating were provided in all parts of the town, not just the approach roads and core. All the flower beds and tree planting are too numerous to outline in full, suffice it to say that the approach roads, the Marina, with its lovely Park area and other planting throughout the town were delightful and well maintained. Also the lovely rose beds in Cappa. The Vandaleur Gardens again impressed but signage in the upper car park was partially destroyed and needed replacing.

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

All the planting mentioned above contributes under this category. Also, the development of the duck island with its thatched crannog. You have a broad canvas to work on in this area and we look forward to further projects in the future – there are some suggestions for same in the Tidy Towns Handbook.

### **Litter Control:**

There was very little evidence of litter in and around Kilrush and the activities you have undertaken in conjunction with the Schools, Youth groups, Soccer Club and Seminars are obviously successful. Good litter bins were noted in strategic positions and the poor Council bin outside Super Valu, mentioned in last years report, had been replaced. However, it was the same situation at first adjudication last year but at the second adjudication stage it was mentioned that the standard of litter control could have been higher. Obviously, constant vigilance is necessary.

### **Tidiness:**

Kilrush has improved considerably in this regard over the last few years with most areas quite tidily presented and kerbs weed free. The new Archway at Malthouse Lane enhances this area and the planting of ivy to cover the wall in this Lane should also help. Other activities such as removing stones from tree bases and planting hedging at Soldiers Hill also assist. New tree planting at the Marina, when mature, should also screen off some buildings here that are not of a high standard. The machine yard on the Ennis Road, mentioned in other reports, has a rather untidy appearance and perhaps some planting could also be undertaken here to alleviate this problem. Placards seen on the grass verges advertising the upcoming Maxol Service Station and the Vivo shop should be discouraged as should all forms of fly posting. There was a large amount of ivy on a pole in this area

and also on another pole on the link to the Kilkee road. The new recycling plant on the Cooraclare road is to be welcomed.

### **Residential Areas:**

The residents in and around Kilrush have mostly embraced the Tidy Towns concept through the maintenance of their buildings, attractive gardens and good boundaries. In this regard however, some houses near the speed sign on the Kilkee approach, whilst being well maintained with lovely gardens had very untidy roadside areas. Housing estates visited were well designed and planted. The placing of an actual roundabout in an estate cul de sac to facilitate turning was thought to be commendable. Well done for organising a Best House and Garden competition.

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

Roads were good in an around Kilrush with some work needed at Cappa. As previously mentioned, laneways are looking better. However, it should be remembered that visible gable ends also need attention. Most directional signage was clean and well presented. The large arrow in the middle of the road in the Square showing the Ferry to the left is rather confusing as it seems to be indicating that there is no right turn. Could two arrows be placed here, one to the left for the Ferry and one to the right for the Marina. Parking was well controlled and the Parking Warden was noted doing his rounds.

### **General Impression:**

Kilrush continues to progress in every way and the commitment of the community to this change is very evident. Kilrush has a long history and the street names reflect this: Malthouse Lane, Merchants Quay, Soldiers Hill, Vandaleur Street, Pound St and Limekiln Road. It is good to see this heritage being preserved in a sensitive manner and built upon. We wish you well in the future.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

Considerable progress has been made in Kilrush especially in relation to standards of presentation of buildings both residential and business. The Market Square looks very well as does Frances Street. The many floral plantings -both permanent features and container plantings add a great summer sparkle to the town. There are many more tree planting opportunities particularly on Frances street – this street is so wide great advantage could be taken of the width in a much more comprehensive planting programme than currently exists. The Merchants Quay planting is attractive by the waterside and hopefully all the difficulties of the problem buildings at Merchants Quay and at the entrance to the Marina will be resolved soon. The efforts made to clean up back lanes are very worthwhile and improve the general appearance of the town. The vast number of terraced houses in the town keeps great life within the town. Many of the houses are well painted in colourful themes – such as O’Dea Street, houses in the Nagle Street and Pound Street. Painted roadside walls always need repainting more frequently than the houses themselves. The greens areas on the Killimer Road and road up beyond the Quarterdeck Restaurant look very well. A visit to the Vandaleur Walled garden is a delight and a lovely asset for the town to have so near.

