

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilworth**

Ref: **32**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **242**

Category: **B**

Date: **02/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	42
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	35	34
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	28
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	242	236

Overall Developmental Approach:

The Community Council and the community generally are obviously doing a considerable amount of work to enhance the village. There is a considerable amount of housing development taking place in the village at present and it is therefore difficult to attain a satisfactory level of tidiness until this work has been completed. However, a good foundation has been laid and the community should continue in a coordinated way the good work, which has been commenced.

The Built Environment:

The standard of buildings throughout the village is good and some are very impressive. For example the Village Arts Centre is a fine example of good conversion of a lovely church building for the cultural benefit of the community. The Catholic church and grounds were very well presented. The school buildings in the village area are also well attended to; in particular the old school. Here the perimeter old wall is well maintained. The building is enhanced with attractive shrubbery and colourful window boxes. Premises such as the Garda Station and Post Office were well presented. Business premises too were generally well presented and a good example of this is The Gallery Crafts premises which is very tastefully maintained. Many business premises throughout the village were enhanced by the use of colourful window boxes and in some instances hanging baskets.

Landscaping:

The community here obviously gives considerable attention to landscaping in various areas throughout the village. The landscaping work which has been carried out at Brennan's Place is excellent and enhances this area considerably. Again the landscaping near the Gallery Crafts Centre is very well maintained. In the Square area too, landscaping is impressive; here too good use is made of flower tubs, window boxes etc. The landscaping work which has been carried out in the vicinity of the Community Housing area is of an excellent standard.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is noted that the community is having discussions with Coillte aimed at progressing the wildlife and natural amenities in the vicinity. Coillte have an excellent record in this work and undoubtedly there is great potential in this regard in Glensheskin Wood – Gleann Seisceinn. Obviously a considerable amount of work needs to be done but the area can be made into an invaluable amenity area for the future. No doubt the wood provides valuable habitat for many species of wildlife.

Litter Control:

There seems to be quite good litter control throughout the village generally. Litter bins here have been put in place in a number of areas throughout the village and obviously progress has been made in having these used. There was, however, some litter in the car park area of the Sports complex and this would need to be tidied up. The village streets in the vicinity of shops, schools etc. were virtually free of litter.

Tidiness:

The community continues to make a very good effort in maintaining a very considerable level of tidiness throughout the village. There are some areas, however, which need attention, for example the general area within the perimeter walls of the Sports Complex need to be tidied up by removing rubble, etc. Also there is high grass and weed growth along the walls here and this needs to be attended to. Also, areas where large scale housing development is taking place will need to be tidied up but obviously this is dependent on completion of construction work. The Square area in the vicinity of the Arts Centre was particularly clean and tidy. The area in the vicinity of the Bottle Bank was quite tidy.

Residential Areas:

The community housing, which has been carried out in the village is of an excellent standard and a credit to all concerned. The houses, the magnificent well maintained green area, the stone walls and landscaping all combined present a very pleasant area for this important residential area. There is large scale housing development taking place in the vicinity of the village at present. Where completion has been reached the standard is good and open green areas, etc. are well maintained. The existing residential areas in the village are indeed of a very good standard. Houses and gardens at Brennan's Place are excellently maintained and presented. Also house and gardens at Ait Sean O'Dalaig – John Daly Terrace are also neatly presented. On the main approach roads to the village there are many examples of well maintained houses and gardens. The house and gardens at Elm

Place were beautifully maintained.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The condition of approach roads to the village is generally good but there are some areas which need attention. The footpaths on approach road (where Bottle Bank is located) are very much in need of attention - in some instances heaps of rubble were left on the footpath which needs to be attended to. Otherwise, the high stone walls along here are quite impressive. Also on this approach one of the speed limit signs is missing. The new footpath near the Elm Place residential area looked well. The Glanworth approach road was of a very good standard – here the grass verges were neatly trimmed and the stone walls were well maintained. Here too the picnic tables and the seating, together with the tree planting, looked well. Other approach roads such as the Lismore approach were well maintained. The plaque acknowledging the success of the local rowing champion, which is set in natural stone is being well maintained. Also the explanatory Display Board of the Blackwater Way including the Avonduh and Duhallow Way is an excellent idea. The old water pumps, which have been preserved in the village make a nice feature.

General Impression:

This a most pleasant village and the community has clearly worked to maintain its character. In addition there is a nice atmosphere throughout. The Community Council and the obvious rapid expanding larger community must now ensure that the village retains as far as possible the characteristics which make it so attractive.

Second Round Adjudication:

Kilworth was a pleasure to adjudicate on a fine August evening. The entrance from the Cork road looked superb with its well maintained grass verges together with neat hedgerow and trees of varying degrees of maturity, the picnic area with its car-parking facility is a fine amenity. Well done on the wire free status of the village centre, no doubt the outer limits will be cable free at some stage in the future. A stretch of footpath with handsome stone kerbing is in need of rehabilitation, the kerbing should be highlighted. Landscaping in the centre is effective and flower displays eye catching. The Village Inn could be considered for a shopfront award if the plastic protruding sign was removed, likewise the beer signs should be removed from the Tom Cotter premises. The Village Arts Centre was admired and is being considered for an award. Well done on the Sli na Slainte walks within the environs of Kilworth, this enhances its amenity status significantly. Is there a possibility of creating a 'hide' to observe hawks and owls in their sanctuary? Litter control was good and the Recycling point was tidy; kerbs along the Lismore road were weedy, this gives an appearance of neglect which is obviously not the case in Kilworth! Hopefully new developments will fit into the fabric of the built environment seamlessly and that the old house near the telephone kiosk will retain its beautiful traditional features upon refurbishment. A fine presentation again this year!