

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kiskeam**

Ref: **579**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **235**

Category: **A**

Date: **30/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	36	35
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	31	30
General Impression	10	7	8
TOTAL MARK	300	235	232

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submission and details of work on hand and work intended. The sketch map was helpful on adjudication day. Maps are a valuable source of information to adjudicators and the more detail the better. We note you are working to a phased plan and this is good policy. The village looked well on the last day of June and most premises were bright and cheery. You are endowed with some very natural and man made features and the rural ethos of the village is, for the most part, being maintained. Your many developments indicate a caring community and you have worked hard in the past.

The Built Environment:

The prominent buildings looked well again this year. The church dominates the village and looked well, although the landscaping in between the trees needs a clean up. The GAA community hall is well presented despite its flat roof and is neat and tidy. Just two observations to the environs of the hall: (1) the old car at the back is virtually filling a gap at this stage, could it be removed for next year?, and (2) there is a most unique limekiln adjacent to the cemetery awaiting a clean up and some interpretation. This is an ideal community project that would enhance the area and strengthen the historic links of the parish. We suggest you contact the tidy towns committee in Knocknagoshel, Co. Kerry who embarked on a similar project and erected a bilingual plaque. The school is poor in presentation and needs to be painted - perhaps you could try a different colour? Lehanes foodstore has too many signs.

Landscaping:

You have worked hard under this category and approach roads provide a great array of shrubs providing good colour. Tree planting is good and we urge you to continue with this policy. We acknowledge the great amount of stone building in the village and you are currently concluding the stone wall opposite the old hag sculpture. Stone walls on their own can be cold and drab, so you need to complement them with trees or hedge planting. The treatment of the beech hedge behind the stone wall in the village centre is excellent and should be pursued to other areas. You should also plant trees inside the current new wall if the landowner agrees. Plant for the next generation, so be liberal with spacing. The village pump is an attractive feature. We support your plans for an amenity scheme at the treble arched bridge and feel it would be a very welcome development. The proposal of a footbridge is commendable and you should pursue it. You also have an opportunity to locate a feature on the small island on the south side of the bridge: perhaps a large piece of bog oak unless, of course, this area floods in winter time.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have great potential to raise your marks in this section. The presence of a river always offers opportunity for promoting wildlife. Could you develop a river bank walk from the bridge to the Millennium garden area? The millennium garden is attractive and informative. It is good to remember those who went before us and we praise the recognition to Edward Walsh, an file.

Litter Control:

Litter control is good and no obvious problems here, so well done to all.

Tidiness:

You have problems regarding some untidy yards and back entrances. The rear of Why Not is untidy and quite visible from the new sheltered houses. Also, the rear of the house beside the new grotto is now unsightly and will be seen by all who visit the grotto. Other areas of untidiness relate to rusty farm gates and poorly presented boundary walls.

Residential Areas:

We refer you to last year's comments regarding the Moylan Terrace. Residential areas are very important to the tidy towns movement and estates presented to a high standard are an important aspect of the adjudication scheme. The houses along the lengthy approach road from Boherbue are well presented and provide a good introduction to the village. Some very good individual effort is obvious in the village with attractively developed front gardens offering great colour.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road structure is good and well laid out. Signage is good also and well defined. The mural is really life-like and presents a pleasant rural scene for visitors and through traffic. We have already alluded to the problem of back and side areas and we hope for an improvement. The two new houses opposite the church are an important infill and the policy of building houses in the village core is commendable. Well done to the Council on the standard of footpaths and bollards.

General Impression:

It was delightful to visit Kiskeam and witness first hand the work of previous years and work on hand. You have an attractive village and you are coping well with the great amount of through traffic. We urge you in your developments to retain the rural character of the village and not to

succumb to the ultra modern developments evident elsewhere. We wish you well in your endeavours for 2005.