

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilbrittain**

Ref: **136**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **235**

Category: **A**

Date: **23/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	36
The Built Environment	40	36	35
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	235	229

Overall Developmental Approach:

Kilbrittain has developed very well over the past few years with a great sense of community spirit, innovation and progress. The committee of ten members is a sizeable number and the enthusiasm is reflected in the presentation of the village. The detailed marked map, photographs and 3/5 year plan was very welcome and useful at adjudication. There are many items pinpointed within this plan and hopefully all will be achieved. The yearly schedule is helpful. The three main objectives in the plan are very worthy. In order to have a yardstick to assess yearly achievements it would be helpful to divide the work into three years and follow the progress from there.

The Built Environment:

Stonewall building has become a characteristic feature of the village and there are many fine examples of beautiful stonewalls. The wall by the church in particular is very attractive - as are the walls at the amenity park and by the grotto. Looking at the wall alongside the new housing - while the stone is very attractive and the style of building, the capping of concrete is disappointing and hopefully this can be remedied in time with an appropriate capping of stone. There are many beautifully painted premises throughout the village giving a very cheerful impact. The strong colours of blues and yellow are striking. The church is a lovely building and stands in a very prominent position. The School, Garda station and Community complex are all important buildings in the village. The stone feature outside the amenity park is interesting and the stone bridge at the picnic area makes a beautiful setting.

Landscaping:

The many colourful displays through the village provide very good landscaping. The grotto, and garden alongside, is a lovely restful feature and a very strong asset within the village. The large copper beech tree forms an integral part of this scene and illustrates the value and importance of even one single mature tree. Planting trees for the future is always vital so that we can leave a legacy as those who planted this copper beech tree have done. The new housing within the village – particularly the stretch of houses closest to the grotto and amenity park end would benefit from some narrow tree planning at intervals along the front gardens as they seem very stark at present and lack a green foil. The street trees have matured well and the purple plum is consistent with the colour of the copper beech. The floral features by the roadsides are attractive - well done on this project. Gardens contribute well to the overall landscape of the village and these deserve credit for their efforts. The cemetery is well tended – but appears a little stark from the view from the church – perhaps some softening of this could be achieved by tree planting at the perimeter. The church grounds are well planted and appear well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Both the Amenity Park and the picnic areas are attractive and provide a good opportunity to develop awareness of the natural environment. The walkway from the amenity park is attractive. The area by the bridges is very restful and an ideal place for picnicking or rambling along the riverside. Information about what might be seen in this area – in terms of flora and fauna would be welcome and perhaps local information could be accumulated in this regard and passed on to the younger generation. There is scope for school project work here. Please consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for more assistance in this regard.

Litter Control:

There is a very good level of litter control in the village and the village surrounds were very clean.

Tidiness:

Since the building of the housing in the main street has been completed there is a more settled look through the village and this creates a more tidy appearance. The removal of overhead wires would be very welcome and lobbying to succeed with this would be valuable.

Residential Areas:

It is marvelous to see such rejuvenation of the village centre with all the new houses there. This retains a village community spirit and prevents the village from aging. There is good maintenance of the housing throughout the village and people show great care and attention to house appearance. The Castlevue estate looks well tended. Along the approach roads the houses and gardens show care and attention and this contributes to the overall landscape appearance of the entire village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces are reasonably good. The surface at the Amenity Park and carpark for the community complex need attention. Footpaths are good in places but a continuation of the path from the grotto to the Top petrol station and Amenity Park would be welcome. Provision for baby buggies and wheelchairs at the end of paths is not great and there are also some steps on the footpaths. Approach roads are well treated and there is a very pleasant aspect on arriving in the village.

General Impression:

Very good work has been done in taking Kilbrittan to the present standard and good credit is due to all concerned. The inclusion of so many houses within the main street and building in the village centre is a great idea.