

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcar**

Ref: **170**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **198**

Category: **A**

Date: **30/06/2004**

|                                | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2004 | Mark Awarded 2003 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50           | 33                | 31                |
| The Built Environment          | 40           | 28                | 27                |
| Landscaping                    | 40           | 27                | 25                |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30           | 16                | 16                |
| Litter Control                 | 40           | 27                | 26                |
| Tidiness                       | 20           | 14                | 14                |
| Residential Areas              | 30           | 20                | 19                |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 40           | 26                | 25                |
| General Impression             | 10           | 7                 | 7                 |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>300</b>   | <b>198</b>        | <b>190</b>        |

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submitting your Tidy Towns 2004 application. Reiterating last years comments, a simple hand drawn map would be extremely helpful in helping to identify all improved areas throughout the village. Your development plan identifies clear goals and objectives which in turn will help progress the future of the village. For such a small village, the size of your Tidy Towns Committee reflects a strong sense of community involvement and awareness.

### The Built Environment:

The combination of old and new buildings makes for a very interesting stroll around the village. The Catholic church on entrance to the village give a lovely impression.

The old factory behind the Aislann Building is still in a bad state of disrepair. The Donegal Handweaving building is well presented displaying an array of hanging baskets, however, attention to paint and window replacement or repair would greatly enhance this building. Teach Barnai, Jack Bans Bialann and The Pipers Rest show a very high standard of presentation and their vibrant colours increase the visual impact of this town immensely. The Post Office looks very well. Painting of the village school has been noted and is commended. The new plaque looks very well. Same comments apply to the Health Centre as last year.

### Landscaping:

The grotto plays host to some fine landscaping with a combination of mature trees and well maintained shrubberies. Some fresh planting is evident in the green area behind the stone entrance to the village. As these mature, the bilingual entrance to the village will be further enhanced. The green area in front of Cruakarr Estate presents a high standard of landscaping and is a credit to those maintaining it. The use of potted plants on entry to this estate works well.

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

It is hoped that negotiations with the Fisheries Board to clean up and re stock the river will bear fruit. Once achieved display boards containing information on the species of fish present in the river would be helpful. It is also hoped that the riverside wall will soon commence development as this would be a great asset to the town.

### **Litter Control:**

There is a very high standard to litter control in this village with decorative litter bins noted throughout the village. There is obviously a high level of litter awareness within the community and this reflects the virtually litter free appearance on the day of adjudication.

### **Tidiness:**

A large number of suspended flags are evident throughout the town centre which can detract from buildings. Replacing some of these with hanging baskets would improve the visual impact of these premises. The prospect of obtaining bottle banks under the renewal scheme is a positive move towards progressing the environment of Kilcar. It is important, however, to ensure they are regularly emptied and do not become an eyesore. Good use of decorative street furniture was noted throughout the village. Evidence of some dumping at the back of Cruakarr Estate needs to be removed as it creates an unsightly eyesore.

### **Residential Areas:**

Cruakarre Estate is generally a very well maintained Estate with some very attractive landscaping along the green area in front of the Estate. Development on the Killybegs road looks promising, however, the Committee should ensure all extraneous materials are removed by builders before they vacate the site. Kilcar community obviously work well together as the level of presentation of individual houses throughout the village was highly impressive on the day of adjudication.

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

The road leading down to the Hand Knitting Yarns Factory Shop needs resurfacing. The new bilingual entrance to the village in stone is very impressive and creates a positive welcome to the village. Roads are generally in good repair with small areas in need of resurfacing. The plan to stone face the wall at the Grotto will without doubt further enhance this lovely feature. The town will benefit immensely from the removal of overhead cabling and no doubt the community will very much welcome this development.

### **General Impression:**

Kilcar is a very attractive looking village with a lot of potential to further enhance an already fine area. The Village Renewal Scheme should help realize many of the objectives outlined in your development plan and already has benefited the village in many areas.

