

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killorglin**

Ref: **609**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **219**

Category: **C**

Date: **10/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	36
The Built Environment	40	32	30
Landscaping	40	30	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	28	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	6	5
TOTAL MARK	300	219	210

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for an excellent submission, complete with illustrated map and details of work on hand and work planned, short and longterm. This is a most valuable report and should now become your environmental bible for an improved Killorglin. It is many years since this adjudicator visited Killorglin in such detail and the changes are really impressive. This is no longer a slow moving rural town and indeed one of your biggest problems now is the density of traffic. The town has responded by a good layout of street control which includes one way streets and extra car parking. However, as in most towns, the emphasis now is in getting cars off the main streets and creating more room and comfort for people going about their business in a clean unpolluted environment. You have made great strides in a short period of time and you seem to be tuned in to the true spirit of Tidy Towns which is all about community effort leading from the front. The work of the local authorities is blatantly evident and you can be well pleased with their obvious commitment. You should strengthen your association with all agencies and make Tidy Towns everybody's business.

The Built Environment:

There is a great mix of new and old attractive buildings in and around Killorglin. As mentioned last year the RC church is most imposing and dominates this area. It is good to see the name of its leading founder being honoured with an attractive bronze bust. Fr. Lawlor will be well pleased. The Church of Ireland church is a gem and well landscaped. Most public buildings are well presented, especially the Community School. The Tom O Donnell is superb and we acknowledge the restoration

of this building and its high class presentation. The friendly library, (where this report was typed) is poorly identified and no sign was visible. Libraries are now an important part of communications and offer valuable services. The adjacent public toilets are a let down. For a town the size of Killorglin it is hardly acceptable: you should pop down to Portmagee and see the operation there. Some buildings are extremely well presented: AIB and the gable end of the Pharmacy is excellent with working clock. Gable ends are often a let down but this one is excellent. The Credit Union building is going well: do erect an attractive bilingual sign when complete.

Landscaping:

You have scored well in this section. Well done to local authorities for some very attractive tree planting on approach roads and for colourful displays of roses at the market area. Credit too to the new Flexco building: this is one of the best landscaped parking areas in the county and is a model for others to pursue. There is much evidence of great individual effort and many people have gardens that excel in presentation. Killorglin Sports and leisure is very poor and needs surfacing and painting. Could this be done for next year. The restored creamery cart on the approach road is very colourful and a good advertisement for the committee. Let it be said that everyone does not agree with such use of old artefacts, so we suggest you take the cart in for the winter and let it be a summer display only. The churns add character to its presentation. Longterm you should plant and landscape the market area with trees, shrubs and flowers. Have a look at Listowel for good effect on the town's square.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The beautiful Laune river is a wonderful asset for any town and you should exploit its beauty for the use of the community. This can also be a great source of wildlife promotion and a series of walks could be developed illustrating the popular and prevalent wildlife of the area. This in turn might lead to the erection of display boards: so you have much to and good scope for raising your marks in this section.

Litter Control:

You have small problems here and the market area had some litter on adjudication day. Also the bottle bank is being abused so you need to police this area and make it unacceptable for disposing litter beside this depot. Some litter also at the playing area of the Community school and across from the Tourist Office on a Wednesday evening. That said, the main streets were litter free and well presented.

Tidiness:

Your problems here relate to a number of derelict and unoccupied sites and premises. This includes the town centre: beside The Bunkers. This may be outside the scope of the local committee but you are well placed to put pressure on the local authorities to implement laws available to compel owners to move on dereliction. The area approaching the bridge on the Iveragh approach is unsightly and the post and rail fencing should be removed and replaced with a stone wall.

Residential Areas:

Like most towns you are experiencing a great deal of new building. You should encourage developers to recognise the historic and rural aspect of the town as they plan for new buildings. You should concentrate on urban infill before embarking on an extension to ribbon development. This is happening on at least one approach where two storey terraced houses are being built. You also need to name ALL estates and arrange for appropriate bilingual signs to be erected. St. James Gardens was well presented, despite some boundary wall painting requirements and the large green area should be improved and kept by the residents. The skip here should be removed also.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road structure in and around town is excellent and many attractive footpaths have been developed in recent years. streetscape is good. You should aim to get the overhead cables put underground, especially at the market area. This could be done in association with other developments. Back and side lanes are now an integral part of the adjudication process so you need to take care of all areas. Many of these have interesting features worthy of being highlighted. The puck sculpture at the bridge is excellent and appropriate.

General Impression:

Well done on an excellent performance. The town was neat and clean on adjudication day and projects an air of progress. Your challenge now is to sustain your efforts, bring the community with you and keep to your plan. Good luck for 2005.