

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilkenny**

Ref: **583**

County: **Kilkenny**

Mark: **266**

Category: **F**

Date: **26/07/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	47	47
The Built Environment	40	38	37
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	25	24
Litter Control	40	32	32
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	27	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	35	35
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	266	263

Overall Developmental Approach:

The Keep Kilkenny Beautiful Committee put together a very comprehensive submission for this year's competition, all of which made interesting reading. The different maps were most useful on adjudication day. A great level of enthusiasm is evident from your entry outlining your numerous activities throughout the year. The large number of competitions taking place locally, in all aspects of the competition criteria, over the last twelve months are a marvelous initiative and will certainly pay dividends in years to come. Well done to all concerned, for the good work to date.

The Built Environment:

Buildings on the main streets of the city generally looked well cared for. However, there were one or two on John Street and High Street which were not maintained to the same high standard. There was a good use of the Irish language throughout the town. Public buildings such as schools and churches looked well, in particular, the Presbyterian Church and grounds and the Court House with its magnificent rose garden to the front. As ever the Castle, Kilkenny Design, Butler House and their associated well maintained grounds were very well cared for. Of note in terms of commercial premises were Langton's bar and Hotel, the Ormonde Hotel, the River Court Hotel, the Shopping Centre, Lenehan's on the Castlecomer road and Dunne's Stores. The numerous hotels and B&B's throughout the city and along approach roads all contribute strongly to this aspect of the competition.

Landscaping:

This is an aspect of the competition which is obviously enjoyed by all those participating in it. An attractive landscaped area at Nuncio Road was admired. The roundabouts looked extremely well and your initiative for encouraging local businesses to sponsor these important areas, is a marvelous one. Publicly visited buildings such as the Castle and Butler House looked extremely well as did the grounds of Kilkenny Design and the Craft Council. The Parade looked marvelous with its magnificent mature trees. Floral displays in dished planters throughout the city looked extremely colourful. An avenue of lime trees on the Castlecomer Road looked quite marvellous. The new large limestone head of St. Canice looked extremely well and is obviously already much loved as a city landmark! The graveyard campaign is another marvelous initiative, incorporating as it does both landscaping and heritage aspects of the competition.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It was good to note that one of the local schools has achieved green flag status. The ongoing work at Newpark Fen is to be commended. The individual efforts of local residents groups is also highly commendable. Kilkenny Castle's wildlife and plants sanctuary is to be applauded and Birdwatch Ireland Dawn Chorus Initiative sounds both educational and fun!

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on adjudication day was good given the level of visitor numbers to a city of Kilkenny's size. For the most part the city looked litter free but there were a few problem areas. Litter was evident at the Larchfield Housing Estate and also in the basement void to Provincial House. More was evident behind the gates of County Hall / Kilkenny College. One has to be ever vigilant in these situations to ensure that problem areas are identified and checked regularly.

Tidiness:

The city generally looked neat and ordered on adjudication day. However, there were a number of problem areas. A garage opposite McDonald's appeared quite shabby. There were a number of shop fronts that were also in contrast to the generally good appearance of the main shops of the town. One on John Street and another on High Street created a very bad impression. Two fine Georgian houses on Kieran Street should be restored to their former glory as should one adjacent to the Rivercourt Hotel. The new riverside facility in this location was greatly admired. The development of the riverside areas should be a quite magnificent facility for both locals and residents alike when completed. A rough area on Kieran Street which is being used as parking area looked somewhat tatty.

Residential Areas:

The numerous housing estates throughout the city were well maintained and the various competitions organised throughout the year are obviously paying dividends. Of particular note were the Larchfield Estate which looked extremely well and adjacent Edenvale Close with its rose gardens and magnificently maintained houses and gardens which looked quite magnificent. Hotels and the numerous bed and breakfasts contribute well to this aspect of the competition- in particular, Bridge Court B&B.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The ring road and its associated roundabouts looked extremely well and the marvelous initiative to get local businesses involved in sponsorship in this regard has been commented on previously. There are numerous new paving projects taking place on the streets throughout the city, and these are to be applauded, as they greatly improve the fabric of urban spaces. In terms of street furniture, the

metal street furniture such as lamps and bollards etc. looked quite flaky and a fresh coat of paint would make a significant difference in this regard. Signage was generally quite good, although a grubby sign on the Carrick-on-Shannon side of the village should be washed down before next year's competition.

General Impression:

Kilkenny is a magnificent city with much to offer the visitor, given its numerous heritage and historical sites. Its residents show an obvious pride in its appearance, which is extremely evident on even a brief visit to the city. Well done to all concerned.

Second Round Adjudication:

An other excellent submission by Kilkenny, coupled with an excellent performance by all concerned. The city centre was bustling with many visitors on a Monday (waste collection day) second adjudication day. There was a great balance of historic buildings, medieval architecture, rich floral displays, tree planting and well presented commercial outlets. The Freshford approach is not up to the standard of other approaches and has some disappointing dereliction and unfinished developments. Litter control throughout was good and the constant effort applied in keeping it under control is acknowledged. However, your largest single litter problem now relates to cigarette butts, but in this respect you share your problems with most other large urban centres. Friary Street was impeccable in presentation and a model for others to pursue. Some signage e.g., the hoarding for the main sewage scheme is in need of cleaning. Grass control was noteworthy and the moveable tubs in the city centre add great colour and in some cases include beech trees. Dempsey's stood out for rich floral display. Well done to all the traditional shopfronts for maintaining such a high standard.