

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Piltown**

Ref: **400**

County: **Kilkenny**

Mark: **228**

Category: **B**

Date: **16/01/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	31	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	32
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	228	225

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator was disappointed to note that you still had not put together your three to five year work programme. This is essential at this stage in the competition, in order that you can set objectives for yourselves and also that the adjudicators may see your progress as the years go by. The Keep Piltown Tidy Committee is nonetheless obviously an enthusiastic one. The flood lighting of the water tower and belfry of the Catholic Church must certainly make dramatic entries, at night-time, into the village, with its fascinating and interesting history. There retention is to your credit. The replacement of broken trees and planting of new trees is to be applauded as these will be of immense benefit to future generations. The two maps you enclosed with your application were most useful on adjudication day. For these many thanks.

The Built Environment:

The stone Catholic Church looked extremely well, although perhaps some tree - planting could be considered in this location? The Church of Ireland looked quite magnificent with its mature lime trees to its front boundary. The Centra was fresh and work was taking place to the car park area, as mentioned in your application. Do ensure that this car park area is sensitively treated and has a landscaping aspect to it - perhaps the existing street line could be maintained with a colonnade trees? The Garda Station looked quite magnificent and the unusual and dramatic building opposite was admired, although weeds were evident to its base. The Community Centre looked fine, although the Christmas decoration to its gable seemed quite unseasonal! The school was fine and its

boundary wall should be painted before next year's competition. Other commercial premises were generally presented to a reasonable standard.

Landscaping:

The planted bed with stone surround on the Waterford Road was well maintained. The village pump was simply presented with some flower tubs to the front. There is plenty of scope for further landscape projects, as mentioned by last year's and the previous year's adjudicators - for example, at the Community Centre and Catholic Church. The Water Tower and its associated landscaping were well maintained - this is a most unusual element in the town and its preservation is to be highly commended. The montbretia in this vicinity will be magnificent when it comes into full bloom. The riverside feature and its bridge was admired in its central location and the permanent planting at the bend in the road in the centre of the village looked well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The bird boxes in the trees opposite Hillcrest Estate are a commendable project. As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, it is at this stage that you should formulate a work programme in relation to this aspect of the competition. Consult with your Tidy Towns Handbook in order to gain some ideas in this regard and be sure to involve the local school children.

Litter Control:

The adjudicator noted your comments regarding problems of litter dropped by passers by and hopes that this situation improves. Nonetheless the village generally looked extremely good from the point of view of litter control on the day. One or two outbreaks were evident on the Waterford Road and along the village streets - by the grotto for example and a minor outbreak was also noted to the car park area of the Community Centre. But all in all the village looked well given its busy nature.

Tidiness:

The standard of tidiness in the village could have been better on adjudication day. The yellow warning sign by the grotto needed repainting. Weeds were evident in a number of locations previously mentioned and also to the wall opposite the Church of Ireland. Forecourt areas and messy yard areas should be screened from public view. The abandoned garage in its prominent location in the centre of the village looked unfortunate. The adjudicator noted your comments in relation to abandoned buildings - good luck with resolving this issue. A number of derelict properties were evident in very central locations. Weeds were also evident to some kerbsides in the central area between the "nodes" of the village. A messy yard area in the vicinity of the bridge could be screened from public view as could the recycling bins. The building behind could be painted up before next year's competition. An overgrown space in the vicinity of Banagher Place looked unfortunate.

Residential Areas:

The standard in this category of the competition was generally good. An attractive house beside the graveyard and old belfry was admired. The grass verges to the modern houses beside the Catholic Church in the village centre needed cutting. Houses along the streets were generally well maintained - of particular note was one with roses around the door and another attractive one with window boxes. The landscaping to Hillcrest Estate was admired. The old Post Office is a very charming house - well painted and maintained. The interesting house on the School Road with the stone folly gable was greatly admired. The Kildalton Estate was fine although additional tree planting could be considered in this location. The attractive houses adjacent to Centra with their well maintained gardens to the front were greatly admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Piltown has been by-passed from the main Limerick - Waterford Road, which must prove beneficial to its occupants. On the Waterford approach to the village the grass verges had been roughly cut back and the new trees in this location were admired. Along the Limerick Road the grass verges were maintained to a higher standard and the trees were coming along well.

General Impression:

Piltown is a very long village with many areas to maintain. It is essential at this stage in the competition, as mentioned by last year's adjudicator, that you formulate a work programme in order to set yourself objectives and time - frames for achieving these. It will prove to be invaluable to your work.