

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilkeeran**

Ref: **277**

County: **Mayo**

Mark: **219**

Category: **A**

Date: **20/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	31	31
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	21	21
Litter Control	40	36	36
Tidiness	20	12	13
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	7	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>217</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to thank you for the very comprehensive documentation supplied with your entry form. All this documentation was studied and was most useful on adjudication day. The map was especially helpful.

This is truly a beautiful place in a very lovely location on the shores of Lough Carra. Obviously there has been settlement in this area for a very long time. Kilkeeran is unlike any other centre in Ireland that has been visited by the adjudicator over many years of adjudication. There is an extremely strong sense of community here and the work that you have achieved could not have been achieved without the full community backing that you appear to have. The area is a very large one for a small Committee of just eight people.

The welcome signs are most attractive as are the various panels. The adjudicator noted with disappointment that there has been a difficulty with vandalism and hopefully this has proven to be an isolated incident.

Continued progress in the competition will be dependent on everyone working towards the same ends. With this in mind you should prepare a "3/5 Year rolling Tidy Towns Work Programme". This programme should have the support of the community, local groups, other agencies and the County Council. It would therefore guide your Tidy Towns actions for the next three to five years. The Work Programme will detail the Tidy Towns objectives to be achieved by your committee in the years ahead. The preparation of such a Plan that is updated annually is now an essential aspect of the Tidy

Towns Competition. You do not need to bring in outside expertise to prepare this Plan. It can be done by yourselves and you will find that the Tidy Towns Handbook will be a great help to you in this task.

### **The Built Environment:**

There are no shops or industrial buildings in Kilkeeran and perhaps this is one of the reasons that the area has such an excellent welcoming atmosphere. As recommended by the adjudicator last year all field gates should be painted an attractive bright colour and street furniture might be treated in a similar way.

Stone walls are a very strong and attractive feature of Kilkeeran. However the adjudicator noted with concern that in a few cases stone walls have been painted white. It is generally better to leave such walls unpainted and display the nature stone instead. The old Church and Graveyard are very attractive features looking out over the lake. However at the graveyard weeds and grass that has been sprayed need to be removed. It is also worth investigating if you can have some of the old corrugated iron roofs painted, but check safety issues before so doing.

### **Landscaping:**

The trees both public and in private gardens are really attractive and add a great sense of colour to the area. Once again the village green was attractively presented.

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

The wildlife area by the lake is a most beautiful part of Kilkeeran but perhaps there should be some wildlife display boards in this area to explain the various wildlife habitats to be seen. Have you considered having a Survey carried out of the flora and fauna in the town area? The results of such a Survey would help your Committee to focus on planting that will encourage further wildlife to the area. The harbour area is most attractive but the large pile of old timber here detracts from the overall presentation here.

### **Litter Control:**

Your level of litter control is excellent and you have been most successful in the Mayo County Council Competition. Well done and congratulations to all involved. The litter notices are excellent and are well presented.

### **Tidiness:**

There were a few points under this heading that were of concern to the adjudicator. The dead grass and weeds at the graveyard have been referred to earlier in this report. Weed growth was noted at the base of stone walls and some untidy views were noted through field gates and gaps. As suggested above field gates should be painted a consistent colour throughout Kilkeeran.

### **Residential Areas:**

The standard of presentation of many private houses and gardens was very good. In some cases timber boundary fences need to be painted. Excellent private landscaping was noted and many houses had been freshly painted.

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

Little work appears to have been carried out on the cutting of road banks. This might be considered for next year especially on the approach road to and from the graveyard and old church.

**General Impression:**

The adjudicator was delighted to return to Kilkerran again after an absence of a few years. You are making great progress. Do try and get your Tidy Towns action plan organised for 2005. An important aspect of this plan will be to try and bring a greater unity to the overall presentation of your beautiful area.