

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killala**

Ref: **345**

County: **Mayo**

Mark: **186**

Category: **B**

Date: **26/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	28
The Built Environment	40	25	25
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	17
Litter Control	40	25	26
Tidiness	20	10	11
Residential Areas	30	21	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	186	185

Overall Developmental Approach:

Welcome to the 2004 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the 3 - 5 Year Plan. This is a useful document. However when next revising this it is recommended that you indicate your objectives/work programme for each year of the life of the Plan. The Village Renewal Plan mentioned in your application form was not provided for the adjudicator and this was also raised in the 2003 report. The provision of that report, providing that it is being implemented, could gain Killala additional marks in 2005.

The Built Environment:

The Round Tower and the Cathedral are obviously the two buildings that dominate the town. Indeed from the Pier this is very obvious, as the top of these two buildings dominates the skyline. Your work on derelict sites has seen good success and just a few more remain to be acted upon. The Health and Community Centre was well presented as was the small landscaped area at the entrance. The Post Office was another building that caught the eye. The Humbert Lodge is an important building at a street junction in the town. However the paint work does need some attention. The large high old stone building in Courthouse Street is a dominant building and the adjudicator wonders if there are any plans to restore this to a new use. In the Pier area the Irish Coast Guard building looked well.

Landscaping:

Good landscaping with the water feature at the Community & Health Centre caught the eye. The discussions on the town park, which are underway with the Local Authority, are noted. If there is a new Plan for this Park do make sure to include a copy with your entry form for 2005. On the Ballina approach road there appears to be a number of landscaping possibilities on the left hand side of the road and perhaps this can be examined for next year. Landscaping was examined at the General Humbert Memorial but weed growth was noted here. The window boxes in the town were colourful and attractive. At the Pier the area with the trees and tables was quite untidy and the grass had not been cut recently.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The proposed birdwatch sanctuary is an excellent proposal. 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 wildlife to the area. A logical step following the Survey would be to provide display plaques illustrating the local flora and fauna. The Quay Road and the Ballycastle approach roads could be excellent bird watching areas.

Litter Control:

The provision of new litter bins is noted. While litter control in the town centre was quite good on adjudication day, problems were noted elsewhere. Quite a lot of litter was not on the Crossmolina and Ballycastle approach roads. Quantities of litter were also noted on the Pier.

Tidiness:

Quite a few untidy areas were noted as follows. The speed limit signs and field gates might be painted in a coordinated colour. A small pile of gravel was noted at the black and white town sign on the Ballina approach. At the Community and Health Centre the Western Way Map is damaged and probably needs to be replaced. Weed growth in some of the side lanes was noted. There are some plastic shop signs in Killala that are now out of date and need to be replaced by perhaps traditional hand-lettered signs. Perhaps you can discuss this with the property owners concerned. The recycling centre in Market Street was neatly presented and on the Crossmolina Road some gable walls need to be repainted. On the Ballycastle approach road an overgrown area at a field gate on the left hand side was noted. To the rear of the Humbert Lodge the car park was quite untidy as was the general area of the Pier.

Residential Areas:

Improvements at Bartra Heights and Woodview Court were noted. The landscaping at Bartra Heights is really excellent. The low grassy slope at the entrance here is a very attractive feature. Sea View Estate looked well and a new estate under development was noted on the Ballycastle approach. On the Crossmolina approach some boundary walls need to be repainted. Nice landscaping at the entrance of Woodview Court is attractive. A beautiful cottage on William Street stands out and this has excellent landscaping of flowers and shrubs beautifully maintained.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The new street lights are quite attractive and fit into the town well. On the Ballina approach the verges by the town sign were uncut and a number of verge areas in this area did not seem to have been cut recently. On the Crossmolina road while some work had been done on road banks, the verges had not received recent attention. Likewise on the Ballycastle approach little work appears to have taken place in recent weeks.

General Impression:

Killala is an attractive town by the sea with an important history. Hopefully the Village Plan will help to guide the future development of the area. Well done to all involved!