

# Tidy Towns Competition 2004

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kells**

Ref: **700**

County: **Meath**

Mark: **220**

Category: **D**

Date: **07/01/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	33	33
Landscaping	40	33	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	30	28
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	27
General Impression	10	7	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>216</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your extremely clear map, comprehensive application form and useful photographs, all of which made for very interesting reading on the day. However, you did not include your development plan - you should always include this with your submissions every year. It would also have been useful if you had highlighted the areas of interest on your map - i.e. areas on which you are working/which have been improved upon etc. The vast range in age amongst your committee members must be very useful for your work.

### The Built Environment:

Most of the buildings along the main streets and along approach roads were well cared for on the day. Kells has a magnificent range of historical and heritage buildings such as the round tower and St. Columba's Church set right in the centre of the town. There are some attractive traditional shop fronts but do try to ensure that shops maintain their original sash windows to the upper levels or indeed replace pvc or aluminium frames with traditional timber sash windows. Do discourage projecting plastic signs and encourage their replacement with ones of a more traditional timber variety. It was disappointing to note some Christmas decorations still adorning some premises. The Round Tower Pub looked very bright and freshly painted, as did the Ground Floor Restaurant and Ko-Ko's. The entrance area to the Christian Brother's grounds was greatly admired. The entrance to the GAA grounds will need painting up before next year's competition. The Westway looked quite charming with an abundance of hanging baskets and window boxes.

## **Landscaping:**

This is an area of the competition which you show obvious enthusiasm. The People's Park is a magnificent facility with its unusual observation / viewing area which gives the appearance of a land locked lighthouse! The playground looked most colourful, the grounds were well maintained and the attractive entrance area with snapdragons and traditional stone piers were greatly admired. Trees on the main street are maturing nicely although a number on Farrell Street by the junction appear to have been damaged and are merely trunks! An attractive graveyard with stone boundary wall on the Dublin Road near the High Cross was nicely maintained.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The planting of 150 new trees on approach roads and the encouragement of tree planting to new housing estates is to be highly commended. You mention your forest areas and bird-feeding accomplishments. Perhaps get local school children involved in drawing up a map of areas of wildlife interest in the locality? This could be incorporated with a walk - perhaps you could investigate the Slí na Sláinte initiative.

## **Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day was generally quite good given the size and busy nature of the town. However, an odd paper was noted on the Oldcastle Road and the Athboy Road. However, quite a lot of litter was evident outside the shop adjacent to the Catholic church, which looked unfortunate.

## **Tidiness:**

Your reduction of the derelict sites within the town by twelve is a truly marvelous achievement in the last year. However, there are still a number of areas which look unfortunate. These included one on the Oldcastle Road, some derelict cottages, an unfortunate looking building adjacent to Celtic Fireplaces and the boarded up Country Fresh building on Bective Street. Good luck with your future endeavours in this regard.

## **Residential Areas:**

The standard of houses within the town and along approach roads was generally good on the day. An attractive house with colourful hanging baskets on the Oldcastle Road was greatly admired. The stone walling, seeding of grass verges and tree planting to new housing estates is to be highly commended - of particular note was the Cloisters. Attractive houses on the Athboy Road appeared to be maintaining the grass verges to the front of their properties. A pretty rose garden on Bective Street beside the entrance to the Christian Brothers was greatly admired. The large number of residents associations and inter-estate competitions are obviously paying off!

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

The main streets of the town were generally well cared for and well maintained. Approach roads were generally quite neat although weeds to the new kerbsides on the Oldcastle Road looked unfortunate and more weeds were apparent on the Athboy Road. A number of papers were evident along this road and hedgerows were being cut back. Do ensure that you consider bird-nesting times when cutting back the hedgerows.

## **General Impression:**

Kells is an attractive heritage town with a wealth of architectural gems within its central area. The

committee and residents of the town show an obvious care and pride in its future. The adjudicator looks forward to the town's future development in years to come, when the by-pass comes into being. It should give the town a new lease of life!