

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmessan**

Ref: **334**

County: **Meath**

Mark: **213**

Category: **B**

Date: **08/01/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	36
The Built Environment	40	32	30
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	23	25
Tidiness	20	17	16
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	213	211

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator was disappointed to note that no work programme was available "due to ongoing development in the village". You also mentioned that your relationship with local organizations and statutory bodies was somewhat at a crossroads due to this reason! Surely this is the exact time when a good relationship is most important? Be sure to include a work programme with your application for next year's competition. Many thanks for your colourful map which was very useful on the day.

The Built Environment:

The standard in this category was generally good. The Credit Union looked well, as did the church and grounds. The Post Office was well maintained. In terms of commercial premises, Fergie's, Maguire's, The Beauty Clinic and Thorne's were well maintained. The Station House and grounds looked extremely well. Centra appeared a little flaky and will need painting before next year's competition. Is there any possibility that their storage area could be moved to the rear, as at the moment it is quite visible on the main street? A more successful method of screening would also help the situation. Do discourage the use of projecting plastic signs and encourage their replacement with ones of a more traditional timber variety.

Landscaping:

There is further scope for development of this aspect of the competition, as Kilmessan has quite a long extent of streetscape with numerous junctions which could be well utilised in this category of the competition. The village pump was simply presented and the landscaped area at the triangle on the Dunshaughlin Road was admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The adjudicator was somewhat puzzled by your response on the application form in relation to this aspect of the competition - you mentioned updating signposts at the Credit Union? Do consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas for developing this category of the competition further. This gives ideas in relation to habitat surveys, developing management plans for wildlife, creating wildlife areas and the different types of wildlife areas that can be formed. As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, ENFO also have a number of publications which would be of help in this regard.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day could have been much better. In a village of Kilmessan's size litter control is most important! A lot of litter was evident strewn along the main street and along approach roads including the Trim, Robinstown and Dunshaughlin Roads - on the latter road, being particularly bad in the vicinity of the bridge.

Tidiness:

A weedy area opposite Thorne's created a bad impression. Pieces of timber were evident on lampposts - these would appear to be the remnants of election posters and should be removed. The concrete bench outside the Station House Hotel should be re-whitewashed before next year's competition.

Residential Areas:

The standard in this category was generally good. The well maintained houses with attractive open space at the lower level adjacent to the Trim Road were admired. The Village B&B contributes well to this category of the competition. New houses opposite the Station House Hotel appear to be well finished from a landscaped point of view and should mature nicely. A charming creeper clad house in the centre of the village was admired. Do try to discourage the use of PVC windows in traditional vernacular houses and where they have been used, encourage the replacement of traditional timber sashes.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The standard in this category of the competition could have been better. The Trim Road appeared quite overgrown, as did the Robinstown Road, particularly at the village nameplate. The Dunshaughlin road appeared to be to a higher standard. Steel fencing along approach roads is being well maintained but perhaps, in the long term, stone walling or indigenous hedging in beech or hawthorn could be considered in these locations.

General Impression:

Kilmessan is an attractive village which is undergoing a great deal of change and development at the moment. Do formulate a work programme in order to plan for the village's future. Do not be discouraged in this work, by the fact that such development is taking place, but rather get involved in order to ensure that the village retains its own unique charm and heritage!

