

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killeigh**

Ref: **533**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **229**

Category: **A**

Date: **17/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	32	31
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	34	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	14	13
Litter Control	40	36	36
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	34	33
General Impression	10	7	8
TOTAL MARK	300	229	225

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for a most delightful, detailed and well laid out submission with detailed map, giving details of work on hand and plans for the future. We commend you on your ability to liaise so closely with local authorities and other agencies. It is many years since this adjudicator visited Killeigh for an inspection and the improvements since have been immense. Like all centres you have your problems and some of these are beyond the scope of a tidy towns committee. You are fortunate to benefit from the village renewal plan and no doubt this will add to your efforts to enhance the village and environs.

The Built Environment:

The hand of previous generations has been kind to you and the wonderful specimen mature trees illustrate how beneficial tree planting is. You in turn are now planting for the next generation and much of previous years work is now bearing fruit. Public buildings are well presented. Both churches are well presented and the Church of Ireland has attractive environs; could the bell be restored?. The Catholic church is well presented and new car parking lay out should improve the discipline of parking. You should not rule out some tree planting in the park, and also down by the GAA frontage. The former Macra hall is now awaiting developments and is quite unattractive in its current state. Doyles and Gormans looked well. The GAA park would benefit from some landscaping and improved entrance. The old school house should be painted a bright colour. The national school is well presented but the prefab is not in keeping with the area. Playing area attached to the school is

liberal in size and well done on car parking for staff cars, and the bus collection point outside, all well disciplined.

Landscaping:

This is your strong point and you have much to be pleased with. Mature and young trees, attractive shrubs, flower displays, tubs and window boxes and good landscaping on the approach roads all combine to give great colour and forty shades of green throughout. We have looked at the proposal for the ball alley in the green. This adjudicator suggests you take the quantum leap and demolish the ball alley and remove it. It is no architectural gem, is quite obsolete for current day use, is prone to abuse and serves no environmental purpose. You should replace with a water feature and generous landscaping and if need be erect some sculpture associated with the skill of handball. Every part of the village has some landscaping, but the array of mature trees at Abbey Farm excels.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Birdlife is abundant in the many trees and landscaped areas throughout the village. You might consider a wildlife project in association with the school authorities. This might lead to a survey of the popular wildlife species and the erection of a display board illustrating the wildlife of the area.

Litter Control:

The recycling centre is well located and free from abuse. Litter does not seem to be a problem, apart from a little at the seven wells area, so well done.

Tidiness:

Your problems here relate to some untidy open spaces needing attention and the area around the seven wells is poor. This adjudicator visited this development. You need a confirmatory sign at the first stop where the plaque is identifying the distance in meters to the actual well. It is a pleasant walk and rewarding for the visitor: an attractive plaque here is well displayed. The area beside the hall is poor on this important approach.

Residential Areas:

The standard of house is good throughout and the new houses being erected near the green should blend in well with the environs if properly landscaped. There are numerous attractive 19th century houses in the village, but there seems to be no end to the amount of pvc doors and windows replacing the original ones: this is regrettable. Hillview Crescent is well presented and some have excellent gardens.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There is an excellent flower garden at the triangle on the Mountmellick approach providing an most attractive approach to the village. We suggest you paint all farm gates on the roadside a bright colour. The standard of roads is good and despite the almost constant traffic surface is good. Some of your signage is in need of cleaning.

General Impression:

It was a delight to visit Killeigh on a sunny day in June. The greenery was superb and so varied. You are endowed with some excellent landscape features and many attractive buildings of historic value. Your challenge now is to continue your developments on a phased way. Getting the backing of the community is all important and encouraging residents to play their part is the essence of good tidy towns. We wish you well for 2005.

