

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kinnitty**

Ref: **361**

County: **Offaly**

Mark: **218**

Category: **B**

Date: **03/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	30	30
The Built Environment	40	27	27
Landscaping	40	32	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	218	218

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your submission and illustrated map of village. We still await your plan for the next few years. Even you committee's thoughts on phased improvements would be helpful and also act as a discipline for your work programme. As stated in previous years, Kinnitty has all the ingredients of a most beautiful village and your are endowed with a host of environmental delights: river, woodland, scenic views, attractive buildings, history and a vibrant community. Your have potential for a much higher mark but you need full community backing and commitment.

The Built Environment:

The church, on an elevated site is the most imposing building in the village. It is delightful to find it in such a well presented state, with attractive landscaping overlooking the village core. The school as always is well presented and car parking has been added in recent years. The Community centre is a lovely example of good restoration and is appropriate to the village environs. However, despite a notice to the contrary it was closed on adjudication day. Your black spots are well acknowledged down through the years and the derelict house in the village is a real eyesore, with weed growth on the roof gutters. In contrast there is a very attractive restored house on the Birr side of the village offering tourist accommodation. Well done on resisting the use of PVC windows in this rural setting.

Landscaping:

The tree planting on the Birr approach continues to enhance and this is an imposing entry to the village. Some of your signage is now in need of refurbishment, and on the Roscrea approach the village sign is missing. Also a community alert sign has gone very shabby on the Cadamstown approach. Great to witness the attractive array of roses again this year in front of the church. However, the grass at this riverside site needed cutting. This small area is the village centre focus and should be kept to a high standard at all times. If energy permits you should aim for more colour in the village centre by embarking on more flower beds. It is preferable to develop permanent flower beds rather than the use of flower tubs and even hanging baskets. Bear in mind the rural ethos of the village and the vast amount of forest in the area that complements the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The development at the pyramid some years ago continues to prosper and the planting here will provide food for wildbirds. Keep in close liaison with the school authorities and try and get the school children involved. Ideally you should aim for an illustrated display board that will highlight the popular bird and animal species of the area.

Litter Control:

You have maintained your high mark in this category and litter control does not seem to be a problem. Unfortunately a small amount was in evidence in the school car park on the village side.

Tidiness:

Your problems here relate to dereliction, unattended open spaces, poorly presented yards and the unsightly sawmill on the Roscrea road. Some forecourts are poor in presentation. As a committee your powers of influence are all important as it is unreasonable to expect you to remedy the above problems yourselves.

Residential Areas:

In general, houses are well presented and some excel. Some have attractive gardens and the individual effort is acknowledged. As mentioned last year, the hedge row fronting the house on the school end of the village is superb. Also the period house in the village looked well. The new housing scheme at Ballincur Park should strive to soften the strong white colour. It is going to be difficult to integrate this scheme into the village in view of its removed location and the design of the houses which are too urban in presentation. You should meet with the residents and draw up a landscaping programme. Get advice on appropriate planting that will blend in with the traditional ethos of Kinnity. Kennedy's is now quite an eyesore on this important village site. Is there any move to improve?

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads, especially the Birr approach are good and the tree planting is very effective. Some of your previous years developments are now in need of attention and this includes signage and shrubbery displays. Back lanes can be of great interest architecturally and especially in an old village. Unfortunately people do not give them the respect they deserve and we now find many traditional features being demolished through lack of appreciation.

General Impression:

Always a treat to visit Kinnity and so it was this year on a fine June day. The village is attractive but not reaching its potential in the competition. You need more community commitment and new housing development now offers you an opportunity for new members. Good luck with your endeavours.

