

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilsheelan**

Ref: **683**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **238**

Category: **B**

Date: **02/08/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	36	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	34	32
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	25	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	238	233

Overall Developmental Approach:

The work which is being carried out by your committee, your Community Groups, South Tipperary County Council and FAS was very evident in Kilsheelan on adjudication day. The Adjudicator got the impression that the emphasis this year was very much on maintenance and this is to be lauded. However having reached a very high mark in the competition you should try to identify more projects which could be carried out under the different headings of the competition which would gain you additional marks in the coming years. This could be done by way of the drawing up, with your partners, a simple 3/5 year plan identifying what you could do on an annual basis within your physical and financial resources. Thank you for all the information sent with the entry form – which made interesting reading – and for the map. In the event, do send a copy of your plan with your entry form next year so that the Adjudicator can have sight of it.

The Built Environment:

Your Church, Health Centre, Garda Station, Schools, old Church and graveyard and Grotto were very nicely presented again this year and are obviously being well maintained. Walls throughout the village also looked well. Unfortunately your Railway Station is somewhat dilapidated and your comments in this respect are noted. Perhaps South Tipperary County Council could make some overtures to the owners on this matter. Many business premises in the village are nicely presented. Others need refurbishment by way of painting and tidying up. The two old petrol pumps in the village perhaps could be removed at this stage.

Landscaping:

Wonderful work is again being done this year in Kilsheelan on landscaping its open spaces, its approach roads and its special features such as the Grotto. In the past great praise has been given to your efforts in this respect and the same has to be said again this year. Open spaces are being very well maintained. Flowerbeds, which were in full bloom, create a lovely atmosphere and where presented hanging baskets, window boxes and planters supplemented this lovely overall appearance which prevails in Kilsheelan. As an example, Kilsheelan must have some of the best presented approach roads in the country.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your comments under this heading have been noted as have been the proposals to develop wildlife projects in the School area and at the river bank with the Scouts. The Picnic Area is, indeed, an ideal place for such a project. The Adjudicator looks forward to seeing these projects come to fruition next year.

Litter Control:

Kilsheelan was litter free on adjudication day which added greatly to the overall ambience of the village. Congratulations are due to all concerned.

Tidiness:

The village was again presented in a very neat and tidy manner and was much admired. This again reflects the great work which you are doing and the interest which your residents have in their living environment.

Residential Areas:

The number of houses in the village has expanded considerably resulting in some lovely housing estates and individual houses as well. A visit to these estates would indicate that their residents are very much in the Tidy Towns Competition mood. Open spaces are being beautifully maintained and, in some cases, additional planting of trees and shrubs was noted. If you have not already done so and, where they exist, representatives of these Estates should be actively encouraged to join your committee. In many centres Tidy Towns Committees have generated friendly rivalry with housing estate competitions which has, in turn, improved standards even further. Individual houses also looked well as did their gardens and great credit is due to all concerned.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

In terms of approach roads they are, in all cases, a delight to see. Road surfaces and pathways are again, this year, being very well maintained as are, in the main, car park surfaces. Your comments regarding your negotiations with the Local Authority on the question of large signposting has been noted and hopefully some good will come of it.

General Impression:

Kilsheelan continues to reach a very high standard in the competition and, in spite of an enormous amount of passing traffic, maintains a wonderful level of presentation which could be an example to other centres. Do however give thought to future projects which will get you additional marks under each heading in the competition. Excellent work is being done. Keep it going.

Second Round Adjudication:

There have been very good developments in the village over the years that benefit resident, passing traffic and those that stop for picnicking or a riverside walk. The original character of the village remains with the cluster of shops and housing and the remnants of the old road. The great features of the village are the river and its surrounds and the vast number of trees. The roadsides are well treated and give a very attractive presentation both on the approach road and also through the village. The many planting features add greatly to the scene and individual homeowners and business premises contribute very well in this regard and deserve good praise. The Lavender display at the carpark is lovely. There has been very active tree planting in the village and this is marvellous – for best success with trees three points are important - planting where there is light directly above, avoid planting under mature trees (some trees along the riverside have been planted under a large ash tree) secondly staking is essential (the trees in Garden Grove estate need attention in this respect) and thirdly watering in the early years during summer (the trees in Slievenamon estate are suffering at present from drought shock) The small estate behind Robinson's Pub would benefit from some tree planting. The cemetery is beautifully maintained and the information at the entrance is helpful. The riverside walk is beautiful and the access at various points is a welcome feature.