

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killucan**

Ref: **626**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **163**

Category: **B**

Date: **22/06/2004**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2004	Mark Awarded 2003
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	28
The Built Environment	40	22	22
Landscaping	40	26	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	19	18
Tidiness	20	9	8
Residential Areas	30	21	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	20	20
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	163	160

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for your application, map and Killucan-Rathwire Plan. While this plan is excellent and addresses many issues that overlap with Tidy Towns - it is very important that the Committee develop a strategic 'Tidy Towns' plan to focus development over the coming years. The progress of the village is evident and it is crucial to focus on all elements of the competition at this stage.

The Built Environment:

The Church of Ireland looks wonderful; a beautiful setting and very well landscaped. The new nursing home looks very well and will add nicely to the village when the ongoing landscaping is complete. The Market House is a wonderful building, the road front area could be further enhanced to attract attention to it. Ennis Pub and Cleary's Victuallers have lovely traditional fronts, well done! St. Joseph's Hall /Old Library has a lot of potential also - a lovely structure but need some work. Derelict buildings are an issue for Killucan - it is hoped they will be sold and restored by their new owners in the near future. The stone and blue painted building in the centre of the village is a shame - it could be such an attractive focal point for the village centre. The Mahogany Pub is beautifully maintained and very attractive- the deep red paint really catches the eye and sets it apart!

Landscaping:

The wild flora and ivy on the Church of Ireland wall are beautiful and add interesting colour to one's arrival from Mullingar. In general, the village shrubs are very well maintained- perhaps some more flowering species could be introduced to enhance the overall attractiveness of the beds. The Park area had a lovely rose bed feature and some very nice shrub plantings. Unfortunately extensive weed spraying had recently taken place as there was a lot of dead undergrowth around. Perhaps the use of mulch would be a better option for improving weed control in these areas?

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is good to note wildlife is being considered in relation to the type of shrub being planted. Again a wildlife plan or simply a page of objectives would help gain valuable marks in this section.

Litter Control:

Good control on the Main Street and approaching areas. The Park/Tennis court area were unfortunately a problem. Despite plenty of bins there was a scattering of litter throughout the Park. Bins on the Main Street and approach areas (yellow ones particularly) need replacing. Consideration has been given to the fact that the Committee states new bins were requested three years ago. Some old litter, possibly due to verge cutting needs to be collected along the grass verges.

Tidiness:

The industrial yards are an issue here - however it is noted that the owners have been approached- good luck with your continued efforts. They really do spoil the ambience of the village. Simply screening them with suitable hedging would make a great difference to the village impression. The long grass around the Killucan signs on all approach roads needs to be strimmed.

Residential Areas:

Very well kept for the most part - with some well landscaped lawns. The new development of stone faced houses in the mature treeland setting is wonderful and very much in keeping with the intrinsic character of Killucan. The equally attractive stone faced housing development on the Delvin approach road is eye catching. Similar style developments will really enhance the look of the village and return it to it's former 'stone' glory. Keep up the good work!

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Mullingar approach road looks very well - the barrier as you round the corner into the village however, needs to be painted or replaced. The Nursing Home and Church of Ireland buildings enhance this approach. The Rathwire Road with the Sylvan estate setting to the left looks is very appealing. The Delvin and Ballivor roads has some very good landscaping and were nice and neat. Grass verges on all approach roads were unfortunately very roughly cut and looked untidy. A couple of the signs need cleaning. The poles on the stop sign near Spar need to be painted or replaced. The Cloughan road was closed for roadworks on the day of inspection. Overall the roads to Killucan are well maintained and improving well.

General Impression:

A wonderful rural village with loads of potential - keep up the good work.