

Tidy Towns Competition 2004

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kinnegad**

Ref: **202**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **160**

Category: **C**

Date: **02/07/2004**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2004 | Mark Awarded 2003 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 26 | 26 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 24 | 24 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 25 | 25 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 11 | 11 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 21 | 21 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 8 | 8 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 21 | 21 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 19 | 19 |
| General Impression | 10 | 5 | 5 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 160 | 160 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

The Kinnegad Tidy Towns committee are commended for their interest and enthusiasm in influencing the development of the village. The village is experiencing an unusual period of change and opportunity with the arrival of the motorway which will take a proportion of cross country traffic away from the village and presents the opportunity to redevelop as a community residential village which can be attractive for not only its indigenous population, but also an attractive place to visit.

The Built Environment:

The national school building is cleanly presented, but its lawn somewhat overgrown. The Garda Station and car park frontage is well maintained. The hardware/builders supply yard could be better screened. Buckleys SuperValue shopping centre is a relatively new red stone brick fronted development with clean lines. It is well presented. The Vocational Education Arts Training Centre building is one of the villages architectural features and is very well presented with window boxes, hanging flower baskets, tidy car park and trees.

Business premises generally look well with particular note taken of the Cottage Tea Rooms, Brackens and Coynes. Development works are underway at the site of the Antique Rooms and their completion will bring a long awaited improvement to this 'black spot'. Also noted were the frontages of Granuaile and Hamilton and Sheahan. 'Harrys' is closed for redevelopment. Centrepiece of the built environment is the parish church which was very well presented with its stone seating, trees, and shrubberies at each end of its frontage. The garden in front of the parish house introduces a

much needed green area in the village centre. The rather heavy set frontage to Scanlons Pub was off set by a display of colourful hanging baskets. The stretch of single storey buildings from Bruce's Betting Shop to the Credit Union Office is attractive. There are about a half dozen premises/sites along the main street which are not open for business. The FAS Training Centre building looks quite well but the shrubby area between the front and car park is in need of attention.

Landscaping:

Some tree planting has been placed along footpaths, but more needs to be done in this area. To some extent they are hardly visible due not only to their young age, but also to the combination of street side car parking, large timber lamp standards, and a plethora of hanging signs which are placed well above fascia level. The park offers some potential but its grass is rough cut and paths weeded. Advantage has not been taken of its riverside location. The planted green area adjacent to the roundabout on the Dublin side of the village is in need of attention, and repair work is ongoing to the bridge. The area in front of the visitor centre requires maintenance, and the mural feature is completely overgrown. This approach generally is poor with badly maintained yard and outhouses.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The remains of the old church might be considered for attention at some future date. It appears to be an historic building and could form the basis of a link with Kinnefad's past and a location for wildlife development. One of the surprises of Kinnefad is its immediacy to the rural hinterland within a three minute walk of its main street. The natural hedging, grass lands and wet lands close to the riverside offer a habitat to sustain a wide variety of wild life.

Litter Control:

Kinnefad's litter programme seems to be working, although commuter parking is a problem. There were adequate litter bins in place throughout the village. The grass verge in front of the rear church car park is in need of attention not only to its grass, but also the removal of litter.

Tidiness:

There is an 8 unit recycling facility at the bottom of the SuperValu car park which on inspection day also displayed a couple of sacks of rubbish. Wirescape is not a major issue with most of the wiring running along rather than across the main street. However the large timber poles topped by metal lighting fixtures are over intrusive and it is noted that the committee is pursuing a proposal to replace these with more attractive light standards. The large advertising hoarding on the first building to the left on the Dublin approach is not attractive. The Tommy Scanlon sign which impedes a view of the church spire is unfortunate.

Residential Areas:

The rapid development of residential facilities in the village is having an impact on how the community is going to develop. Close to the village are a number of new residential development schemes. Some of these have already placed screening along the road frontage. These are generally comprised of young hedging and trees, and in time will present an attractive and ordered approach. The Kinsbury residential area is attractively maintained, although attention should be given to the edges of the verge to the left of the entrance road. The estate itself is excellent with maturing gardens and well maintained verge frontages. Work has been completed on Clos an Blinn apartment/townhouse development at the entrance to the Trim road and this has improved the visual impact of the village from the Dublin Road side. The residential scheme to the left of the Trim road is well set around its green which features a fine mature tree at its centre with young trees planted at one corner. The linking houses and frontages to the Riverside Estate are generally well kept, some with colourful gardens and hanging baskets. The Riverside Estate is well maintained with central grass area nicely trimmed. All wiring has been put underground in this area.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the approach road from Mullingar, the verges are reasonably well kept but there are a number of gaps in approach hedging and one house among a group of roadside residences is bedecked with signs. Paths in the village itself are of the brick style and well maintained with appropriate dishing. The verges on the approach from the Trim side have not been attended up to the 30mph sign, but some work has been done to the verges from this point on. The approach from the Dublin Road side shows some untidiness.

General Impression:

Kinnegad is going through a time of considerable change. The imminent arrival of the new motorway will remove most of the through traffic and return Kinnegad to a more indigenous lifestyle. This will bring challenges and opportunities to improve the village lifestyle.