

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildysart**

Ref: **551**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **210**

Category: **B**

Date: **28/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	36	34
The Built Environment	40	30	29
Landscaping	40	28	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	27	26
Tidiness	20	15	13
Residential Areas	30	23	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	210	200

Overall Developmental Approach:

The commitment of the Kildysart Tidy Towns Committee is obvious in year two of operation. Key documentation received with the entry form was very helpful on the day of adjudication including Kildysart Town Plan 2004 -2005, excellent map, and the plans for the proposed development at the Marina. On a beautiful June summer day Kildysart was looking extremely well during the Adjudicator's visit. The plans for the Marina are attractive and this area will benefit greatly from this development. It would appear that 90% of the residents and business premises in Kildysart are co-operative and this is essential in order to bring your targets and aims to fruition. . We would also suggest (if you have not already done so) you consider entering other competitions such as National Spring Clean Week, (run by An Taisce); Green Schools; Golden Mile; IBAL (Irish Business Against Litter); Anti Litter League; Pride of Place (all-Ireland competition); LEADER Environmental initiatives and any County Council Competitions, as appropriate.

The Built Environment:

The state of the built environment in Kildysart also demonstrated the work undertaken over the winter. This included work to the area around the monument and work undertaken in respect of derelict premises. In connection with the latter there are still some areas where buildings need a long term solution and no doubt the committee will continue to work on this. It was noted that the walls around the Kildysart Enterprise Centre mentioned in last years report have been refurbished.

At the Marina, as yet there is no evidence of ongoing work. The building in the centre of the Marina needs attention – even a coat of white wash would enhance same. The building mentioned in construction at the Marina last year is now nearing completion and was not disrupting this area as much in 2005. Most business premises around the town, with some exceptions, are very well presented. Also buildings such as the Church and the Health Centre were noted as being well maintained..

Landscaping:

The hanging baskets in the town centre and throughout the streets were magnificent on the day of adjudication with great colour emanating from each and every one. Tree planting was noted throughout the town and this is to be commended. On the Labasheeda approach the GAA pitch was tidy. Perhaps the surround walls could be painted and some landscaping undertaken to soften the site. The mature sycamore and ash trees on the Labasheeda approach give this entrance a stately appearance. The centre of the town was most attractive and on the day a fruit and veg stall was in place, also selling flowers and shrubs and adding character to the Square. It was noted that most of your new flower containers were stone and this is an improvement on plastic. However the big stone urns are more in keeping with a manor house or a landed estate. There are still some plastic containers for flowers in the town and if you are replacing these we would suggest containers be used that are more appropriate to an Irish rural town such as Kildysart. Well done on your work on the grotto. The roundabout presented good colour at the Marina but the area in its entirety was very poor. No doubt there is a tendency when there is a major plan in the offing not to undertake work until all is in readiness but every season is important.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

All the planting undertaken is a contribution under this heading. We also note that you plan to put another information board on local flora and fauna at the Marina. When planting in future consideration should be given to providing berry bearing shrubs and trees to assist with the feeding of birds in the winter. Buddleia or butterfly bushes were noted in certain areas around the town.

Litter Control:

There was very little litter to be seen around the town and litter bins were noted in strategic areas. A number of these were a little shabby and could do with replacement. Well done on your parish clean up and the work that the committee undertake at weekends under this heading

Tidiness:

Overall Kildysart presented a tidy and attractive appearance. However, the Marina was poor in the area of untidiness due to heaps of gravel piled next to the nicely landscaped roundabout and a picnic table being rather overgrown in one section of the Marina. Weeds should be removed before any spraying takes place. The providers of headstones on the approach road had tidied their premises to some extent but there is still room for improvement. Also on the Ennis approach there was an untidy machinery yard.

Residential Areas:

Residential properties fully contribute to the Tidy Towns effort and again the stone houses of particular character must be mentioned. It was noted that new houses are being built in a number of areas around the town. The building contractors should be requested to leave the sites in a neat and orderly manner when work is finished, including the road side verges. Also, these new residents should be encouraged to assist you in your work in the years ahead.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The resurfacing work on main street was noted. However, some areas, including the road down to the Marina, were poor. Some poor road verges were also noted. On the approach roads the banks were well trimmed back throughout. Signage was well maintained in and around the town. The Welcome signs further out are very attractive and provide an element of hospitality offered to the visitors travelling to Kildysart. Street furniture such as water hydrants and well maintained red seats were admired. In general approach roads were very well maintained and attractive. Road works were taking place quite extensively on one approach. No doubt when these are completed it will be of benefit to the town.

General Impression:

The improvements in Kildysart are obvious and look set to continue into the future. The town has the potential to do well in the Tidy Towns competition and we wish you every success in the years ahead.