

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmihil**

Ref: **150**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **213**

Category: **B**

Date: **13/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	39	37
The Built Environment	40	28	25
Landscaping	40	29	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	28	27
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	22	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	213	205

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for well completed entry form, excellent map which outlined the seven new projects which were completed since last year, and other documentation. Obviously the eight person committee have worked very hard over the year in conjunction with Clare County Council, Fas and your local chools. It is very important that all the community be brought along with you in your endeavours and it is obvious that efforts have been made to motivate everyone. We note your objectives for the coming year when you plan to further develop the soccer pitch and remove the bend at the top of the Doonbeg Road. These are worthy aims but we would also suggest that a more comprehensive plan be undertaken for the next three years. This need not be very long, a one page plan will suffice but it will give you a focus for the years ahead. Attention to detail would be an important attribute to maximise the impact of your work. We would also suggest that you consider (If you have not already done so) 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 County Council Competitions, as appropriate.

The Built Environment:

The completion of the community housing at the Meadow is a major achievement. Also the removal of the derelict buildings in the heart of the town which are at present being re-built is very important

for Kilmihil; In fact most businesses in and around the town were looking very well on the day of adjudication. Unfortunately, we would again mention Mace which is out of place with the general ambience of the street. However, here window boxes have been placed to rather soften the impact of the more commercial aspect of the premises and this is to be welcomed. The Church and the Ceard Scoil were again looking very well. We must especially mention the Library premises which is exceptional with its lovely landscaping, heritage features and the inclusion of wheelchair access. St. Michael's Shrine was again very impressive. The good use of colour around the town was noted. However, there are still some poor premises on the main street and also next to St. Michael's Shrine. In the latter instance imaginative use was made of landscaping with an old bicycle here to soften this premises. New walls were noted in and around the town and give a new dimension to the areas where they are sited.

Landscaping:

Occasional landscaping on the approach roads and in the town was looking very well on the day of adjudication. We cannot comment on the Kilrush Road as this was closed for repairs during our visit. The maturing trees planted on the Ennis Road definitely enhance this aspect of the town and will be of long term benefit to the residents of Kilmihil. The entrance to St. Michael's Housing Estate was excellent and an example to other estates such as this. The picnic area on the Ennis Road is very worthwhile and no doubt used to a considerable extent. We noted the planting on the depot wall here which will mature and cover same. Perhaps similar planting could also be used on the other side of this building for the same purpose.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

All the planting undertaken in and around the village is contributing under this category. Especially the wild flower meadow at the "Meadow". Knockalough Lake continues to impress and was being used by families on a hot sunny day during our visit. At the Sli na Slainte route foxgloves and buttercups were in abundance on the road banks.

Litter Control:

There was virtually no litter to be seen in Kilmihil on the day of adjudication and the excellent black bins were noted in strategic positions. Well done.

Tidiness:

With regard to tidiness, kerbs were weed free throughout and the town was mostly neat and tidy during our visit. Contractors should be requested to leave any building sites in order at the conclusion of their work.

Residential Areas:

Most private houses in the town and on the approach roads were fully contributing to the Tidy Towns effort. It was noted that a yellow house was being painted on the main street which will brighten up this area. However, the outside boundaries of houses were in a mixed condition in Kilmihil. Some residents have taken action as regards to keeping these neat and tidy, other surrounds were rather over done with a number of containers outside the boundary wall - perhaps a well kept neat and tidy green or gravel area here would be more appropriate. And lastly a number of surrounds were quite weedy and badly maintained. As in other towns and villages new housing abounds in Kilmihil and we would again suggest that these new residents be asked to join with you in your efforts in the

future.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces were mixed in Kilmihil and on the road out to Knockalough potholes had recently been patched. This was very unsatisfactory as on a hot day in July the tar was melting and gravel was spitting upwards. As mentioned, road works were taking place on the Kilrush approach. It was noted that signage throughout was mostly in a good condition.

General Impression:

The work undertaken to-date in Kilmihil is impressive. We look forward to continuing progress in the competition in the years ahead.