

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilworth**

Ref: **691**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **245**

Category: **B**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	43	43
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	19	18
Litter Control	40	35	35
Tidiness	20	15	15
Residential Areas	30	26	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	29
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	245	242

Overall Developmental Approach:

Thank you for submission and details of work on hand and planned projects. The sketch map proved helpful on adjudication day. We note with interest you have 20 members on your committee which augurs well for the community commitment to your endeavours. However, we are unaware if you are working to an agreed development plan and if so we would be pleased to learn about it. Such a plan will prove immensely beneficial in phasing developments and raising your marks.

The Built Environment:

You have some very fine period buildings. For the most part public buildings looked well. The church boundary wall needs plastering and painting. Both schools are well presented. We congratulate the Village Arts Centre on ten years of operation and we thank the committee member for allowing access to see the restoration work: well done. The Village Inn has some attractive traditional features and also Tom Collers Public House. The derelict building opposite the garage is unsightly. The Garda Station itself is well presented and has some attractive limestone kerbing near it.

Landscaping:

This is one of your strong points and there was a high degree of colour throughout the village and on the approach roads on adjudication day. The corner site at the Towey monument presents a good

image for the village from this approach. The village green is attractive and well maintained. It also benefits from some fine lime trees, illustrating the great benefit of tree planting. We also acknowledge the great amount of individual effort from those with attractive gardens and commercial operators presenting colour through window boxes, hanging baskets and flower tubs. The landscaping at the entrance from the main road is very effective and we commend the well kept margins and the beech hedge. You are endowed with some very good mature trees and we hope these will act a stimulus to plant more sustainable trees and shrubs.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We are impressed to learn of the amount of nest boxes you have erected and the wildlife display signs are commendable. Indeed Blackwater Resource Developments and Coillte have served you well with a variety of display boards, so well done. You are fortunate to have a wood so near the village and this offers you potential to raise your marks further in this section.

Litter Control:

Some of the litter bins have gone shabby so we suggest you do survey of their condition and replace those in need. In general litter control was good and your policy of daily collection on a rota basis is praiseworthy. We notice the bottle bank is being abused and was overflowing when we visited the village: we feel it best to seek a more appropriate site for this facility.

Tidiness:

The fuel pumps on the square are an eyesore and should be removed. You have problems with derelict and unoccupied houses, together with some broken boundary walls. Some small open spaces are poorly presented and are keeping your marks down in this section. Farm gates would look well if painted a strong colour as they blend in well with the rural ethos of the village which you should strive to maintain to a high standard.

Residential Areas:

The standard of housing is good and we notice a plethora of new houses in progress. We look forward to these housing schemes being well finished, complete with appropriate landscaping and presentation. Please ensure you erect a bilingual sign on each scheme: we note the Cois Coillte housing estate has no sign yet. We note the extensive housing scheme on the Lismore approach and hope it will blend in well with the village when complete. The work at Brennans Place is attractive with well kept grass and flower display. Most of all we welcome the infill housing development within the village core and would encourage this policy in preference of ribbon development.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Footpaths need to be developed between the Community hall and the GAA complex. Some developments are not in keeping with the traditions of the village. This adjudicator is puzzled at the policy of Blackwater Resource Developments grant aiding inappropriate materials, e.g., see Munster Tack and Rugs building and the use of pvc and non traditional signage. Like many villages you have to contend with a good deal of through traffic, much of it at unacceptable speed. The Slí na Sláinte walks are an important amenity and deserve good maintenance and promotion. The street furniture is attractive and creates a good atmosphere.

General Impression:

It was a delight to visit and judge Kilworth for the first time. The area has much to offer and we sincerely hope the new developments will take cognisance of the traditional layout and history of the area. Like most centres of your size, especially ones near cities, you are experiencing unprecedented house building which will change the character of the village. Your challenge is to

impress upon developers the need for appropriate design and presentation of new buildings, while at the same time you need to ensure the rich traditional features of the village and environs are respected. Well done on a good performance.

Second Round Adjudication:

There is great evidence of care and attention in the village and a sense of pride noticeable immediately on entering the village. The many landscaped areas are very attractive and well tended. The trees and well maintained hedging complement the individual landscape efforts. Derelict and some neglected buildings continue to cause difficulties. Stonewalls are a characteristic feature of the village and hopefully the wall at the Pairc na gCapall building estate will be enhanced by good tree planting when the buildings are complete. The stonewall entrance to the GAA grounds is welcome. Some roadside clearances have been done on the New Road and there is also some very poor roadside verge treatment on that road close to the village. Proper reinstatement of areas around the new housing estates is essential to incorporate these into the village context. The Glensheskin wood is an attractive asset - the entrance to this is in a poor state at present with soil movements, a better entrance area could highlight the bridge. Overhead cables hopefully can be removed in the near future and the practice of parking cars on both sides of the street in the narrow part of the village - with wheels on the pavement is disappointing.