

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kiskeam**

Ref: **502**

County: **Cork North**

Mark: **240**

Category: **A**

Date: **09/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	34	33
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	16
Litter Control	40	36	36
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	25	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	31
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	240	235

Overall Developmental Approach:

Your Three Year Plan submitted proved most helpful on adjudication day and reflects healthy forward planning on your part. You have also acted on some of last years suggestions and we commend you for your efforts in this respect. The village looked well on the eve of the longest day in the year. As mentioned in last years report you have many attractive traditional features and you efforts in linking events of the past with contemporary actions is commendable. Your challenge now as you raise your marks is to pay more attention to detail and tackle some of the trouble spots that have been keeping your marks down in some sections. You are endowed with the attractive Araglen River and the arched bridge offers great potential for a spectacle of distinction at this village approach.

The Built Environment:

Relevant to the size of the village you have many large buildings to cater for. The GAA complex is demanding on maintenance and this is acknowledged. The church is well presented again this year and the freshly painted school is commendable. The many historic features throughout the village reflects great credit on your interest in, and promotion of the village's history. We read with interest your intention to tackle the limekiln, so we wish you well with this project which will, when complete, provide a further addition to the historic features of Kiskeam.

Landscaping:

You have worked hard on this section and the work of previous years is coming to fruition and providing attractive colour and environmental enhancement throughout the village. You are also fortunate to have a good selection of mature trees, these complement the current work on hand. We admired the new tree planting between the school and the bridge which will further improve with the passing of time. Well done on the development of the wildlife park at the bridge. You need to be careful not to make this area too 'modern in presentation. This is also an ideal location for a wildlife display board, but perhaps you have this in mind. Well done to all the individuals who keep their gardens to such a high standard.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

You have made a substantial step forward with the above mentioned wildlife park. This now offers you additional opportunity for the promotion of wildlife. The increased awareness of wildlife in general has been one of the most encouraging aspects of the Tidy Towns competition since this new category was added some years ago. Expert help and assistance is now available and an excellent publication available from the Heritage Council in Kilkenny.

Litter Control:

You have maintained your high mark in this section and in general litter control is very good. A small amount of litter was noticed at the rear of the building with the new mural. We commend the commercial operators for providing litter bins and adding to the control of litter. Many centres would envy your performance in this section.

Tidiness:

In fairness there has been an improvement with some of the problem areas alluded to last year. We notice the development of new house near the GAA park and such developments offer potential for new members and enhancement. We also notice you have removed to old car from this area. We again implore you you give special attention to farm gates and paint them bright colours as they add to the rural 'brightness' of the area.

Residential Areas:

The standard of housing throughout the village is good. Of particular interest is the amount of infill housing in the village centre. We would urge you keep the traditional design and materials in new developments. Could you encourage developers to return to the lovely sash windows which can now be manufactured with excellent quality and materials. Modern pvc materials will do little to enhance the rural ethos of Kiskeam.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road structure is very good in Kiskeam: too good some might say as this adjudicator witnessed a car travelling at high, dangerous speed through the village during school hours. Your intensive work with stone walls is commendable and the 'mol an óige' plaque on the completed wall is praiseworthy. Well done also on the addition of the Kiskeam Band Mural, which is quite dramatic, together with the murals on the other two walls of the building. We notice some paint peeling on the east wall: it is best to repair this without delay as it would be a pity to have it deteriorate.

General Impression:

An other excellent performance by Kiskeam and the village looked really well on a fine June day. Your challenge now is to pay more attention to detail and tackle the problem areas. Encourage developers to finish well with developments and remove all rubble from sites. You may also need to revisit some of previous year's developments and ensure maintenance is to a high standard. Tugtar

árd mholadh to gach éinne a bhí bainteach leis na hiarracthaí éagsúla.

Second Round Adjudication:

Good progress is being made in Kiskeam as reflected in the marking. Tree planting is always a wise investment and the latest plantings will enhance the village greatly as they mature. Stonewalls along the roadside look well. The absence of overhead cables gives a very good skyline. Some attention is needed at Moylan Park to the standard of care of the green to the front of the houses and also to the roadside fence on the approach from the village to the estate. The riverside area, while some work has been done, this area has great potential for further projects to improve the riverside areas. A riverside walk for instance would be very welcome.. Completion and good finish to the riverside work would be welcome. The picnic area needs attention to weed care. The millennium garden and the mural form good features. Work on the school garden following the excellent painting is in progress and we look forward to the developments there. The car park opposite the "Why Not" bar needs attention to weeding and a more solid uniform surface is needed. The roadside shrubberies on the east side of the village are impressive.