

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilbrittain**

Ref: **413**

County: **Cork South**

Mark: **238**

Category: **A**

Date: **11/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	40	39
The Built Environment	40	36	36
Landscaping	40	32	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	34	33
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>235</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

Your submission was an adjudicators delight: good sketch map with well defined locations keyed into the various areas and projects of importance, especially for an adjudicator making a first time visit to Kilbrittain. Your 3-5 year plan will prove helpful to you as you tackle your phased developments. You are an experienced player in the competition and much of previous year's work continues to enhance the village. You also have your problem areas that need attention. Your population has trebled in a small number of years and this has implications for the rural ethos of the village and also for recruiting more volunteers to join you in your endeavours. The new housing has, to date, taken place in the immediate area of the village and this is commendable as it strengthens the core of the village. The village is long and linear and this should be of benefit to you in your work.

### The Built Environment:

You are endowed with many some fine buildings and also with a most beautiful river and wooded area. The castle is dramatic and provides a great introduction to the village from this approach: its claim of being the oldest inhabited castle may be a bit exaggerated !! You have worked on the stone building and for the most part the quality is good. You need to create an acceptable balance and not go overboard with stone building: better to concentrate on restoration of existing stone walls needing attention. Public buildings looked well again this year and the National School was getting inside painting. We note from the official opening plaque that the school will be ten years old in 2006: we were also surprised at the plaque being in English only. The church inside and outside is a

gem and the rich landscaping at two levels is most praiseworthy. The features inside are most traditional and well maintained. The Garda Station is well presented, despite the pvc windows, also the Community Centre. The house opposite the grotto needs painting and the adjacent open space needs attention.

### **Landscaping:**

It was my good fortune to visit the waterfall on an early morning in July where the view from the arched bridge was really special. This is a wonderful introduction to the village and a valuable amenity for locals and visitors alike. You are strong on landscaping and the plethora of hanging baskets, window boxes, flower tubs and other containers combine to give a great display of colour of varying degrees. We commend your commitment to maintaining such a high degree of landscaping, which illustrates great individual and community effort. There is a lovely vista on the approach from the cemetery.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

You have ample opportunity to raise your marks in this section. The river and woodland abound with wildlife and fingerling brown trout were abundant in the river during inspection. The Amenity Park is unfinished and we wonder if you have a plan for this project. The entrance is very limited and the gradient is very steep, especially for buggies and the non intrepid.

### **Litter Control:**

You have scored well in this section and the village was very well presented with no apparent problems. Some schools have designed attractive anti litter signs for their areas: you might consider such a project in association with the school authorities.

### **Tidiness:**

On the left hand side of the road up from the waterfall there are two mobile homes in need of improved presentation and the site environs are untidy. The surface to the Community Centre is poor and the tennis court boundary walls need painting: also the fencing here is poor. It would make an ideal project for those who use the facility. Hickey's sign at the end of the village needs cleaning.

### **Residential Areas:**

We liked the amount of house building that has been developed in the village street and also evidence of some beneficial infill. Castle View housing estate is excellent and has some very good individual effort. The boundary walls on Meadow View housing estate need painting and the green fronting the houses is in need of improvement. It is good to notice so many of the village core houses retaining the traditional features and we hope this will be extended.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

There is room for improvement in this section. Some of the road margins are poor and need attention. Also the surface to the Community is poor and the Bring Bank is clean and tidy but the environs need to be improved. We would urge developers to give due consideration to proper access for people with disabilities. This extends to keeping the footpaths clear from sandwich boards and other obtrusive articles. Approach roads and well landscaped providing a welcoming image for the village. You should consider two Fáilte signs on the principal approach roads.

### **General Impression:**

An other fine performance by Kilbrittain and we commend you on your sustained efforts in raising

your marks so consistently. Your challenge now, as you enter the high league is for more attention to detail and tackle the problem areas of some years. Extra house building can be beneficial or problematic, it really depends on proper planning and the will of the community to pull together and tackle your phased plan. We wish you well for the future.

### **Second Round Adjudication:**

At second adjudication Kilbriain was looking very well. Work in progress on the Amenity Park is welcome where low retaining stonewalls were being built. Hopefully the driveway will be surfaced. The site adjoining the Dower House is a little unsightly. Some attention to the plants outside the Garda station is needed. The riverside/waterfall area is a delight and a great asset to the village. Standards of paint and maintenance are superb in general – the roadside wall below Meadow View estate needs urgent attention. The new infill houses are settling into the village context – at some stage removal of the concrete capping on the stonewalls in front of these and replacing with a stone finish would be appropriate. The church, school and surrounds were looking particularly well and as was mentioned in the past – some tree planting to alleviate the starkness of the cemetery would seem a good idea. The memorial tree seat was noted. Undergrounding of cables hopefully is on the agenda.