

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcrohane**

Ref: **513**

County: **Cork West**

Mark: **230**

Category: **A**

Date: **12/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	35	34
Landscaping	40	30	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	32	31
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	230	225

Overall Developmental Approach:

Kilcrohane is welcome to the 2005 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission. We note from last year's report that you do have a five year plan, however this was not resubmitted, even in summary form, this year so it is difficult to make an assessment on what has been achieved. It is appreciated that you may not want to resubmit copies of your plan each year however a simple summary would be sufficient. It is good to note that the committee has the support of both Cork County Council and the local community council and that you work in cooperation with statutory bodies. Kilcrohane enjoys a magnificent coastal setting on Dunmanus Bay with access routes to Bantry Bay also. Wonderful panoramic seascapes and landscapes are to be enjoyed from the village and its hinterland and both the high quality of the built environment of Kilcrohane together with its developing recreational amenity facilities ensures a quality of life for residents and a rewarding experience for visitors.

The Built Environment:

The Irish, European and Cork flags were flying on the day of adjudication and generated a celebratory ambiance. The church and its grounds were much admired and the national school looked particularly well also. The majority of buildings have achieved a standard of excellence in presentation and these include O'Mahoney's, The Bayview Inn and Fitzpatrick's. The community hall was well presented also and its stone wall enclosure and flower displays were admired. The wire mesh gates both sides of the mini market should be replaced with solid gates, preferably good

quality timber ones to provide greater enclosure and enhance visual amenity.

Landscaping:

The new name stone was admired on the entrance to the village and the verge located opposite the community hall featured landscaping which will enhance this area as it matures. New street lighting was noted also. Verges within the limits defined by the nameplates were a little overgrown but not too untidy looking. Some sections of the stone wall could be revealed to highlight the stone work as a feature of Kilcrohane. The new park with the children's play equipment at the top of the road for their pier was noted and admired and indeed was being enjoyed at the time of adjudication. In future landscaping continue to chose native species over exotics as these are supportive of wildlife and encourage a greater diversity of wildlife habitats.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The pier was nicely presented with its attractive seating and two short stretches of rocky foreshore which were very clean. It is good to note a 'Way Marked Way' through the village, perhaps an interpretive panel could be provided to illustrate the route. Wild flowers in the verge on the road down to the pier were admired. The burial grounds had been recently cut however cuttings had not been removed and were a little unsightly due to their scorched appearance. The car park at the burial grounds was neatly presented. Perhaps the committee would consider undertaking a wildlife survey. It is important that you establish existing wildlife habitats in order to take protective measures in the event of future development in Kilcrohane. Could the school be involved in such an undertaking.

Litter Control:

We note from your submission that you get help from both the schools and Foroige for litter control. It is good to involve young people as they are the Tidy Towns Committees of the future. The village was litter free at the time of adjudication. Do submit details of your regular litter control activities in next year's submission and let us know what your overall litter management strategy is. Such details can earn additional marks under this heading.

Tidiness:

Well done for the presentation of the recycling point. It is the best seen yet anywhere in the country by this adjudicator and has been considered for the relevant award. Building materials were noted in the curtilage of the mini market. The adjudicator was unsure as to whether they had been left behind after construction work or whether they were for sale. If the latter was the case then perhaps they could be organised more neatly. The overall appearance of the village and its environs was one of tidiness.

Residential Areas:

A number of underdeveloped boundaries to residential developments were noted along the Sheeps Head Road. Outbreaks of monte bretia were also noted along stretches of boundary which softened the unfinished look of dwellings; perhaps these boundaries will be finished to a high standard for next year's competition. A new bungalow on the same road has yet to have its garden developed. New residential developments have been noted and no doubt they will be finished to a high standard. We anticipate a challenge for the committee in integrating new residents into the life of the community and attracting new members to the Tidy Towns initiative. Well done to those residents who displayed floral displays in hanging baskets.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

One nameplate was attractively presented whilst another one closer to the village was in need of

refurbishment. As mentioned already the Irish language namestone is beautiful. The stone wall and footpath out the Sheep's Head Road was to a high standard of finish. The road to the pier was of a mixed standard on its grass verges, some being neatly trimmed, other stretches being overgrown. It is suggested that the distance to the burial grounds on the pier road from the main road is shown on the finger post there. The retainer for the lifebuoy is in need of refurbishment at the pier and we note that it was empty of its lifebuoy, this must be reinstated. The stretch of footpath from the centre of the village to the junction with the pier road has been noted also. Street furniture was generally well presented.

General Impression:

Kilcrohane is an attractive village with much to offer both residents and visitors. It is hoped that the high standard achieved will be maintained over the coming years with the growth in population.

Second Round Adjudication:

In error we travelled the mountain road coming from Bantry - what an error of great beauty unfolded along this panoramic mountain route. But please erect a few confirmatory signs along this route for Kilcrohane, especially at the majestic viewing point. The village unfolds as you traverse this road and its location is unique on Dunmanus Bay. We liked the traditional stonework and urge you to protect these stone walls from new house building. We assume the wall outside An Clochán will be preserved. The church is very weather beaten but within there are attractive traditional features and some interesting circular windows. The school window boxes have been neglected: best to remove them if you are not going to maintain them. Well done to all who had their houses and commercial buildings freshly painted: the village lends itself to strong colours. Halla an Phobail is really attractive and neatly presented on this approach. You have potential to be a high scorer in the competition so we urge you formulate a phased plan that will chart the way forward for higher standards. You should also lobby for putting cables underground. You have raised your marks, so well done.