

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcar**

Ref: **496**

County: **Donegal**

Mark: **202**

Category: **A**

Date: **29/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	16
Litter Control	40	25	27
Tidiness	20	17	14
Residential Areas	30	22	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	202	198

Overall Developmental Approach:

It was good to get your detailed proposal together with the site maps of the village improvement scheme. I would still ask for a named road map...it is most useful to you and the adjudicator if we can use the local names when reporting.

It is obvious that you are active in the community and getting good buy-in from all but especially the commercial / retail sector.

The Built Environment:

You are beautifully situated in the glen and close to the sea. On the approach the streets open up gradually and then give view of a very colourful vibrant place. Clearly the factories are a challenge but to this eye appeared to be very tidy and mindful of the needs of the tidy community they are situated in.

The main street and its many very cheerful smart retail outlets is a credit to Kilcar and is a great example of vernacular Irish architecture being maintained properly.

Some out-houses , stone built sheds and garages require attention. As part of the architecture they should be maintained but not lost...they are an asset and a reflection of the place.

Landscaping:

The tress on Main street , very practically protected by suitable surround fencing , were noted. The Marian shrine had a lovely original display of tall flowering blooms. The many hanging baskets throughout the village were noted, especially on this occasion at the Post Office and adjoining house.

The National School grounds were a little dull although planting inside the wall showed promise for 2006

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Here you have great potential. On the day of adjudication a proud heron was 'waking the drowsy water-rats' as he stood in the river. Your plan to remove the unsightly walls on the main street bridge would open the lovely river up to view and similarly the Tawney Bridge block wall could be easily replaced with railings...this would allow an easily signposted explanation of the flora and fauna to be seen there to be erected. This could be an excellent project for the children at Scoil Chartha Naofa.

Litter Control:

There was some residual litter to be seen on the main street , especially in the grating around the trees. This should be addressed by the shop keepers etc. From the absence of any litter in the housing estate , the school grounds, the church etc. the children seem to have the message!

Tidiness:

This adjudicator felt that the factory areas , while unsightly , were none the less very tidy. Consideration will have to be given in 2006 to the repainting of Studio Donegal and Cuan Tamhnaigh frontages. The GAA Field was a credit to all concerned...immaculate on the day!

The aforementioned outhouses together with the infill sites (one opp Spar for instance) need to be tidied up...valuable points to be had for such attention to detail.

Residential Areas:

Houses on the approach roads together with lay-byes etc. were very smart. The pride of place reflected in the excellent presentation of the housing estate was to be commended. Here and throughout the town very good use was made of painted colour to achieve impact...always good on grey days or bad flowering weather!

The caravan park could be usefully cheered up for next year

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads were good. I especially liked the stone wall name sign on the Killybegs entrance. Perhaps thereafter there was too much other signage at this junction. I look forward to seeing the other townlands named similarly...with zip codes coming this will be important for our folk memory.

The Spanish Church was well present...it would be great to see it windowed and roofed. The Kilcar Garage complex was an excellent example of a challenging corrugated metal building looking very well.

General Impression:

Kilcar is looking very well. The streetscape improvement , cable laying etc. needs to be built on...persuade the authorities to do the bridges, continue to keep pressure on the factories and as a community keep up the good work!

