

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killorglin**

Ref: **464**

County: **Kerry**

Mark: **219**

Category: **C**

Date: **20/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	32	32
Landscaping	40	30	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	26	26
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	28	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	28	28
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	219	219

Overall Developmental Approach:

The very comprehensive material submitted with the entry form was of tremendous help at adjudication time. The submission clearly shows the extent of the activities of the committee in Killorglin. In three years a great amount has been achieved. Not only are the achievements important but also the community spirit and cooperation that the committee and its activities engenders in the town. The range of projects is diverse and great credit is due to all concerned. The committee of 15 members is a good size. Working with the organisations – such as community groups, businesses and local authorities is the only way to advance projects. There is an amazing amount of building development taking place within the town and this will have an impact on the entire town. Vigilance on the part of the committee is important to ensure that projects are completed satisfactorily and that the community is not discommoded in any way. The traffic pattern may well change as a result of the town centre development and planning is needed to cope with this..

The Built Environment:

There are many fine buildings within the town. The old Methodist church is a gem – unfortunately the surrounds have become neglected and as such do not set this building off well. The Credit Union and Tom O'Donnell Buildings look particularly well as do both the Catholic Church and the Church of Ireland new church in Ivernagh Road. The metal bridge project is a wonderful development and the photographic record is of great value. This also shows that the people are very happy to be involved

in that work. The town centre buildings and the building in progress on Market Street are causing a fair amount of disruption in the town at the moment. Shops and business premises are looking well with many well painted and presented facades through the town. Some premises towards the river end of the lower Bridge Street need a little more attention to keep abreast of the raised standards. At the corner of New Line Road and Lr. Bridge Street some attention is needed in particular. Also the lanes beside Jacks bread shop and a similar lane on the opposite side of the street look a little in need of attention.. Stonewalls play a very important part in the structure of the town. The stonewall with railings by the J.P.O'Sullivan Park is of a very high standard and presents a very pleasant roadside feature.

Landscaping:

Good work has been done in the town under this heading. On entering the town from the Killarney road the very attractive shrub planning is displayed just past the petrol station that has been closed. On crossing the river the screen of trees to the left looks well. The rose border by Blennerhasset memorial obelisk looks very well. Work at the New Line carpark has developed well – this project is well documented in the material supplied and shows great community effort. The colourful baskets on Laune Bridge give a lovely welcome to the town, as does the plant filled kart. Efforts of home owners and business premise in providing colourful garden or shop front displays are very welcome and these contribute well to the overall landscape of the town The improvements at Chubbs corner are welcome. Tree planting should become a major priority in the town. Open spaces in housing estates frequently offer opportunities to plant large growing trees – even one or two beech, oak, ash or chestnut trees will eventually make a great impression compared to the small growing tree. The green at Clover Hill close is a perfect example.. For tree planting within the town streets slimmer forms are suitable. Tree planting around the perimeter at the carpark pf Eurovalu is would be worthwhile to enclose this space. The Fire Station with the lovely group of Copper beech trees surrounding gives a lovely impression.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river provides great potential for wild life appreciation. The work of clearing the riverbank walkway is an excellent project and this can allow scope for availing of wildlife observation in the area.

Litter Control:

Good efforts are made to keep Killorglin litter free. Litter was noted in several places along the streets and in carparks and also along Nuns Road. The recycle bins are being well used. Litter is problem in many towns and villages and constant campaigns and vigilance are needed to deal with this.

Tidiness:

The main streets have a very tidy appearance and the standard of upkeep of business premises helps in this regard. The remaining buildings that need upgrading tend to take from the tidiness. Weediness in carparks – particularly around the perimeter walls of the Eurovalu carpark also give an untidy impression.

Residential Areas:

The many street side houses give a colourful atmosphere to the town. It is great to have such life within the town. The housing estates in general look well. Attentions to grass cutting, grass edges and kerb weed controls are very important. New town houses were observed – The Paddocks” and houses of this type will no doubt become more common as with all towns. Individual houses and gardens along approach roads and within the town contribute greatly when they care for their homes and gardens.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The one-way system of traffic is working very well in the town. Perhaps if some areas could be pedestrianised this would give more freedom for pedestrians who find it difficult to cross the streets at certain points. Disruption of the Glenveigh road because of major roadwork was noted. As stated above laneways need attention in places. With more interior areas – such as carparks opening up now – backs of buildings are becoming more exposed and some of these are unsightly. Planning is needed to overcome this challenge. The road surfaces are very rough both on the Iveragh and Market Roads.

General Impression:

Great progress has been made in Killorglin over the past three years. Some of this - such as the spring bulb planting cannot be seen by an adjudicator but the presentation of photographs and record of the work show this. With the spirit and enthusiasm in the town the future of Killorglin will be bright.