

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildangan**

Ref: **37**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **198**

Category: **A**

Date: **05/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	40	28	28
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	20	20
Litter Control	40	28	25
Tidiness	20	12	11
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	198	193

Overall Developmental Approach:

The information supplied with the entry form was very comprehensive and made adjudication very meaningful. The two maps helped also in locating all the relevant places in the village. The 3 to 5 year plan deals with a number of issues and the re assessment of the plan by the committee is appropriate on account of the major developments that are both ongoing and planned for the village. The committee of 10 members is sizable for the size of the village and yet with the increased population that the new housing brings it is important that new members are recruited from those areas. The core of volunteers in the village is a marvelous asset – this helps to create good community spirit.

The Built Environment:

Both the church and the school look very well. They are presented well with good painting standard. They both have a very prominent position in the village. The Community hall is in good appearance. Stonework is a very prominent feature in the village. The bridge look well and the use of stone for the Bridgeside cottage estate and exterior roadside walls make a lovely feature. The business premises – the public house and the Emo petrol station are well cared for with the landscaping of the Emo station of particular note. The problem of the premises beside Cross Keys remains. The vast number of houses that have been built in the past few years and those planned will result in a very different village with greater demands for facilities and more traffic. Coping with these changes poses a challenge.

Landscaping:

The church and school are well landscaped and maintained. The huge numbers of trees surrounding the village form an important landscape character. The stud farm plantations benefit the entire village with their well-planted estates, the Bridgeside Estate is very nicely landscaped with plants giving all year round interest. These contribute greatly to the overall landscape of the village. The gardens of the Castle Park single story cottage style houses at the road frontage are beautiful and these make a very important impact along the roadside. Tree planting and good entrance and open space greens are all important in the new estates so that in time when the trees mature they will merge well into the landscape. Tree planting wherever possible should be a priority, as this will enhance the character of the neighborhood.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildlife and game reserve is a very useful asset and appears to be well utilised. The projects with the school are an excellent idea. Having children involved in these projects such as tree week and winter bird counts gives them an appreciation of the natural environment at an early age – they will remember this and this helps the passing of information from generation to generation. Making use of nearby facilities is the ideal way to proceed under this heading

Litter Control:

The litter control in and around the village is very satisfactory. The village has a very clean look. The morning litter walks appear to be paying off well. The recycling projects are helpful and they make people very conscious of how they are dealing with waste and how to avoid it in the first place. Campaigns to make people aware of the value of recycling are a good way to get the message across.

Tidiness:

The village is very tidy. The attractive fences and well kept verges helps to give a tidy appearance. Some difficulties arise with the derelict building. There is a need for painting walls on approach to the back areas of Castle park estate. The open central green at Kilbeg estate also needs attention, as do some of the walls in the estate.

Residential Areas:

There appears to be a great sense of pride in the housing estates and this results in a very attractive appearance. By each person looking after the property in which they live, the garden and road frontage -a great contribution is made to the overall picture. The encouragement, campaigns and help given by the committee is laudable in this regard,. Hedges, fences and walls are vital to the presentation of properties along the roadside. Some attractive hedges were noted – one copper beech looks especially well. The timber fences through one estate creates a theme – this is a theme which is a variation on the theme of stud rail fence. Some attention to wall painting is needed in both the Kilbeg estate and the back areas of the Castle Park estate. A watchful eye should be kept on planning permissions and on the reinstatement of sites before developers leave the site. The competition between estates and houses is an excellent way of motivating residents.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces are very patchy in places – this may be due to new pavement building, which often requires a proper finish between the kerb and the roadside. Heavy traffic damages the roadside verges and where road surfaces are poor to start with they quickly deteriorate when heavy traffic pounds on them. The new footpaths are very helpful and it is important that when new estates are

built there are proper pavements to serve the residents – particularly for children on route to school.

General Impression:

Kildangan is a very attractive village and much progress has been made based entirely on community spirit and goodwill. The new estates are changing the face of the village. For planning purposes it would be interesting to know to what extent the new estates will continue being built so that better planning could be organised.