

# Tidy Towns Competition 2005

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildare**

Ref: **360**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **158**

Category: **E**

Date: **05/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	28	26
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	21	19
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	12
Litter Control	40	17	17
Tidiness	20	9	9
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	19
General Impression	10	5	5
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>150</b>

### Overall Developmental Approach:

The map and information supplied with the entry form was very helpful at adjudication time. The information was really an expansion of the questions on the entry form. The Mission statement, Framework for action and list of projects included with this information are useful guides to the future. A more comprehensive plan detailing all items that need attention should be compiled – this would constitute a very valuable plan – each item could be broken down and a schedule of the work required made, when each item will be worked in, by whom and with what resources.

### The Built Environment:

Kildare town has now the benefit of having been relieved of the huge volume of passing traffic and it is time to have a good look at the fabric of the town. The Square in particular should be focused upon as this is the core of the town. There are many fine buildings in the town that act as landmarks. St. Brigit's Cathedral. The Catholic Church, The old Courthouse, Market house/ Heritage centre, The Bank of Ireland, and the hotel and public house buildings. Added to these are the two new attractive buildings – the Credit Union and the Aras Bhríde. The town shopping centre with its street side shopping units looks well. The railway station is well painted. There are a number of attractively painted shops along the streets. There are also a number of shops and business premises through the streets that need attention to paint and general décor. Many have plastic protruding signs which when looked upon from the length of the street appear very fussy.

## **Landscaping:**

The trees in the square have matured well and these give a very pleasant atmosphere within the square. However with the vast amount of parking the true benefit of the planted square cannot be appreciated. Landscaping works at the old Dublin road and at the Chilling Company were noted. The floral display at The Maxol petrol station on the Newbridge Road was admired. Tree planting and landscaping on the Nurney entrance on entering the town over the motorway by Moduslink was also admired. A number of premises in the square have attractive containerised plantings adding a great sparkle of summer colour to the town square. Individual gardens along the roadside and within estates contribute well by their efforts and this also contributes to the overall appearance of the town. Open green areas and entrances to housing estates have great potential for tree planting and for providing attractive landscaped sites. The large green at the Rathangan junction on Nugent Street has possibilities for further tree planting. The large trees by the railway station are a lovely asset and illustrate the importance of even a few large trees within the town environment – these trees were planted by previous generations and we owe a similar legacy to the next two or three generations.

## **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

This is an important part of the competition as it encourages towns and villages to promote an appreciation of the natural environment. A project should be focused upon so that Kildare town could utilise the natural surrounds in a way that would benefit the town's people and at the same time provide observation and appreciation of wildlife.

## **Litter Control:**

The efforts of the committee and residents are noted. The clean-up days and voluntary litter pickers do very good work. Litter is troublesome in the town and litter was noted in many places throughout the town at adjudication time. Litter in the square, by the side of the town shopping centre, along the streets and the bin was overflowing onto the pavement at the Bank of Ireland. Levels of litter of this kind are disappointing and suggest that a massive rethink about the litter challenge.

## **Tidiness:**

Kildare has good potential to be a very tidy town. The parking arrangements at the square do not help in this regard with a very cluttered approach to parking. By restricting the carparking a clearer areas could be provided forming a more worthy square for pedestrians. There are a number of buildings and structures needing attention that do not help either and an inventory of these could be made – after which a programme of how each could be resolved could be formed. The area adjoining the Post office for instance, where old mesh fence lies along the top of a wall need attention, the "Welcome to Kildare" sign on the Newbridge side is in the middle of an unsightly derelict site. There are unsightly sheds on the Nugent Street. Weed growth on the Heritage centre walls and weediness in kerbing in various places through the town is unwelcome.

## **Residential Areas:**

There is a vast range of residential building in Kildare. It is good to see so many street side residences in the town as they retain a good spirit in the centre of the town. New apartments were noted too within the town central area. The vast number of housing estates appears to be reasonably well maintained. The open greens and roadside verges should be maintained very well as these give an impression on entry to the estates. Inter estate competitions and garden competitions are very helpful in promoting better gardens and estates.

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

Very good road surfacing has been done in places and this is very welcome. The Monasterevin and Newbridge roads are particularly good. The Rathangan Road is very broken and rough and needs attention. The new carpark being constructed in Nugent Street looks attractive. The traffic arrangements at the Aras Bhríde area are very cluttered and parking seems to be allowed very generously. The railway bridge is very narrow and has no footpath – this is worrying particularly when there is a housing estate immediately above this point. Greater attention to back lanes and off street areas would be helpful.

### **General Impression:**

Kildare has great potential to progress very well now that the motorway is taking that vast volume of traffic that was so troublesome in the past. A fresh look at the main street and square is needed to make these areas more attractive and friendly to pedestrians.