

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilkea**

Ref: **311**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **208**

Category: **A**

Date: **04/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	25	25
The Built Environment	40	30	30
Landscaping	40	27	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	18	18
Litter Control	40	37	37
Tidiness	20	15	14
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	208	207

Overall Developmental Approach:

The very small number of 3 forming the tidy towns committee places a big burden on those few and yet the entire village benefits from their contribution. Encouragement to join the committee may be a good priority at this stage. A planned approach to the needs of the village should be set down on paper. Work out how, when and by whom or who could be asked and what resources are needed for each item. When a time scale can be added to this and this would constitute a plan.

The Built Environment:

The beautiful entrance and walls of the castle form the main fabric of the built environment. The church is a beautiful building as is the old schoolhouse. The stone houses with their road frontage walls are a marvelous asset to this very picturesque village. The new school is well presented. The river bridge and the Joe Greene memorial are all part of the features of the built environment.

Landscaping:

The natural landscape of the area together with the plantations of the castle form the main landscape framework of the village. The beautiful trees by the church and its surrounds lend a lovely character to the village. Individual gardens along the roadside are very well maintained and contribute greatly to the landscape of the village. A particularly nice feature is the collection of

containerised plants giving extra colour. The “round bush” is an interesting feature comprising 5 birch trees surrounding a thorn bush – perhaps grass cutting and edge care could better highlight this area.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

A wildlife appreciation project would be welcome under this heading. Perhaps in cooperation with the school this could be established. The establishment of walkway along the riverside this would be a great asset.

Litter Control:

There is a very good standard of litter control in the village. This is so important as litter would seriously mar the beautiful natural setting.

Tidiness:

There is a very good level of tidiness in the village. Very good pride is obvious in all the homes and care is taken with the road front presentation. As stated above maybe some attention at the “round bush” would be helpful.

Residential Areas:

The individual houses along the roads of the village are very well cared for and make a lovely impression on passing by. The new houses being built look impressive. It is important that the sites where these are being built are landscaped sensitively so that they can blend in well with the landscape.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads are in good condition. Roadside verge maintenance – keeping the vegetation under control without damaging the attractive appearance requires skill. The road surface needs some attention around the old school house. Heavy traffic involved in the building construction often damages rural roads in areas like this when building is in progress and a watchful eye is needed. A watchful eye is also needed to ensure that planning applications are consistent with the nature of the village.

General Impression:

Kilkea is an unique little village with very attractive buildings and it well utilises the benefits of the Kilkea Castle.