

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kill**

Ref: **367**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **256**

Category: **D**

Date: **11/08/2005**

| | Maximum Mark | Mark Awarded 2005 | Mark Awarded 2004 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall Developmental Approach | 50 | 36 | 37 |
| The Built Environment | 40 | 36 | 35 |
| Landscaping | 40 | 38 | 38 |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 30 | 20 | 20 |
| Litter Control | 40 | 36 | 36 |
| Tidiness | 20 | 18 | 18 |
| Residential Areas | 30 | 28 | 28 |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas | 40 | 35 | 33 |
| General Impression | 10 | 9 | 9 |
| TOTAL MARK | 300 | 256 | 254 |

Overall Developmental Approach:

Major developments are taking place in Kill at present. The work is nearly complete but requires much of the finishing touches yet. The building development work taking place is also causing some disruption with heavy trucks passing through the village. As suggested last year a plan by the tidy towns committee is now needed to outline all the planned work the committee intends over the next 3 to 5 years. This is very important, as the marks allocated under this category require such a plan. Great progress has been made over the years and the standards reached are indeed very high. We look forward to receiving a plan next year when all the work is completed.

The Built Environment:

Kill has some landmark buildings such as the two churches – both of which are prominent and are well set off by their surrounds. Stonewalls through the village are an important asset and give good character to the village. There is a combination of old and new business premises and the standards of presentation of these look well. The shops at Clarendon Court are well kept and provide an attractive shopping unit

Landscaping:

The Community Park appears somewhat neglected, which is a pity. Perhaps some new projects are

planned for this area. The open greens to the front of the Gables housing estate and the green on the other side of the road at this point both appear very well and give a pleasant aspect to the village centre. The large trees at the St.Johns Church are attractive and it is good to have such large trees in the village centre. The newly planted trees along the footpaths are a good addition – many of these appear to be suffering a little with scorched leaves- hopefully this is only post planting shock. Some watering may be needed during their first year. The containers along the footpaths look well and provide a good sparkle of colour in the village. The tree planting along the road by Glendara and St.Patricks Park is particularly good. The birch trees along the main street – now matured well appear very attractive in the village centre

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The area on the slip road by the Ambassador Hotel offers potential. Some work – perhaps in conjunction with the school could be undertaken to make an inventory of the wildlife that might be observed. Riverbanks are always a good source of wildlife observation.

Litter Control:

There is a good level of litter control in the village and the roadways appear very clean. Some small amounts of litter were spotted. Constant vigilance and making people aware regularly of litter is needed.

Tidiness:

On account of the development work in the village and the building developments taking place it is difficult to have a completely tidy appearance. If a second adjudication occurs for Kill the situation may well have improved as progress appears to be moving swiftly at this stage. The Community Park is a disappointment and hopefully this will be resolved soon. The cable laying work is also a further disruption

Residential Areas:

The large number of residential estates now forms an integral part of the village. These are well tended and have been well landscaped. The older estates are maturing well and the Gables and surrounds appear very attractive. The entrance to Gaelic View is a little marred by the tree stump and the weed killed area behind the railings at the corner. Riverside, Riverlawn, Rochford , Glendara, St Patrick's Park and Earls Court all appear well. The efforts that individuals make to present their houses, gardens and road frontage contribute greatly to the overall appearance of the village and good credit is due for this. The terrace of cottages opposite Clarendon Court is very attractively maintained with lovely gardens.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The new road surfaces are very satisfactory and give a lovely appearance to the village centre. Ongoing work towards the Catholic Church and the Cul De Sac end of the village is having an effect on the roads. The small traffic islands in the middle of the road hopefully will make more impact when finished. Large trucks are observed having difficulty avoiding these as they proceed along the road.

General Impression:

Kill has steadily advanced in the competition over the years. The village has changed dramatically with the inclusion of so many housing estates. The new works through the village have upgraded the village centre very well and when all of these are complete and the village settles back with some maturity occurring - the village will be very much enhanced.

Second Round Adjudication:

Having earlier seen the works on the Naas road, this adjudicator's main anxiety was to find access to Kill, but in the event it did not prove difficult; and your anxiety about the roads being torn up within the village proved to be less of a problem than you had anticipated, because by the time of second adjudication in mid-August much of the work had been completed, some was decently contained by barriers, and from the rest it could be envisaged that Kill will have a very smart and smooth road system for next year's competition. We are only able to assess what we see, rather than what we expect to be the outcome, so you will be disappointed by the increase in marking this year; however, you may be reasonably confident that this has only been a temporary glitch and that you will move on to greater things in 2006. The estates, with their neat greens and attractive plantings, were of the high standard expected. (It would be helpful to visitors if cul-de-sac signs were placed at the start of some roads, especially in the Rochfort Abbey complex.) Gaelic View was not maintained to the standard seen elsewhere; nonetheless it was considerably better-kept than many estates in other towns. This was the only place where significant litter was seen on second adjudication day. The shopping precincts were tidy and litter free. Every good wish for your impressive endeavours.