

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmeade**

Ref: **719**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **231**

Category: **A**

Date: **10/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	37
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	38	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	23	21
Litter Control	40	30	30
Tidiness	20	16	15
Residential Areas	30	23	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	231	227

Overall Developmental Approach:

The photographs, map of the village and plan 2005-2010 was very helpful at adjudication time and gave a good insight into the activities of the committee. The small village is very well cared for and it is evident that there is a great pride in the village. The Amenity Area project on the main road is a lovely part of the village work and shows great commitment. The committee of 8 is sizable for the size of the village.

The Built Environment:

The Church is looking in excellent condition with the beautifully painted walls and surrounds. The adjoining carpark is in very good condition with the freshly painted walls and rails on both sides of the road. The stonework at the corner opposite the church forming the kerb is a fitting surround for the sycamore tree. The school is also looking well and some construction work is ongoing opposite this at the wall with piers. New building is also taking place nearby at Cluain Ard and hopefully these will merge well into the village environment. The Gordon Bennett memorials form an interesting part of the village. The Fitzgerald graveyard is a tremendous project and great credit is due for this find.

Landscaping:

Landscaping around the church is beautiful and great care and attention has been lavished on this area. The new border at the back of the carpark by the church looks good and in time will mature well. The cemetery landscaping is very attractive – the entrance making a nice passageway. A number of the large conifers have died unfortunately. Planting in the open space to the front of the St. Itas estate is attractive and includes a good mix of plants giving all year round effect. The planting at the base of the sycamore tree was noted. The space at the Amenity areas on the main road is a marvelous achievement combining so many interesting features. This is well maintained and presents a lovely sight for either passing by or for a stop.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wild flower park is working very well and the range of plants and insects spotted at adjudication was a delight. The surrounds of the area are also attractive. More explanations and identification boards would be welcome as well as involvement of school children to list the plants, insects and birds of the area.

Litter Control:

The control of litter is very well organised and the picnic area and wildflower park are kept particularly well. Some litter was noted along by the roadside at the St Itas estate and opposite the school along by the hedge. The church, carpark and surrounds were meticulously clean.

Tidiness:

Kilmead is a very tidy village and great credit is due for presenting the village so tidy. The wire mesh fence at the boundary of the church carpark and poles look a little uncared for. Building developments at Cluain Ard and opposite the school are causing a little disruption at the present. Some mobile homes at the side of a house perhaps could be screened from the road. Overhead cables hopefully will be removed at some stage.

Residential Areas:

The individual houses along the roadside and those in estates are well cared for. Individuals can contribute greatly to the overall impression of a village by their care of houses, gardens and road frontage areas. St. Itas estate looks especially well.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roads are well tended and the roadside fences in the village are well cared for. Care with cutting back roadside verges is needed – the balance between allowing them grow naturally and cutting back sufficient for safety purposes is very delicate.

General Impression:

Kilmead is truly a tidy village. The amenity area, wild flower parks and Fitzgerald graveyard represent great achievements in the village. The ongoing care and attention to the village admirable

Second Round Adjudication:

Due to the increase in marking achieved by this committee, Kilmeade is now accorded a second adjudication. The public-spirited nature of this committee is highly commended – not least for the initiative in identifying the Fitzgerald tombs in the wonderful circular graveyard and for clearing and maintaining it in such a dignified way – a real service to the public of which you may be proud. On second adjudication day all was found to be as the first adjudicator had described it, except for litter

control – unfortunately there was considerable disposable litter at the attractive Moat View estate. It does seem extraordinary that when people drop litter so near to houses that the householders do not automatically pick it up. It is not as if the litter was in remote spots, but practically on the doorsteps, and on the pleasant green area! (Incidentally, neither this estate or St Ita's are marked on your map – please pencil-in and name all features which should be viewed.) Building construction was seen near the Fitzgerald graveyard: in your contacts with developers and the local authority when new housing is required, try to influence new housing towards the village centre to create a sense of community and avoid remote estates that seem unconnected to village life. The open space between the filling station and the village looks as if it will be developed, and if so it is hoped that this will take place soon as the open area was unattractive at the date of second adjudication in early-August. Every good wish for your future endeavours.