

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmeague**

Ref: **340**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **176**

Category: **C**

Date: **01/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	29
The Built Environment	40	26	26
Landscaping	40	25	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	21	22
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	18	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	176	172

Overall Developmental Approach:

The five-year plan submitted with the entry form is a useful guide to achieving goals for the future. As each year passes the list in the plan can be monitored to see what progress has been made and alter the plan accordingly. The map was helpful for locating the various parts of the village. The list of items in your plan includes a wide range of activities, which is very good. Working with the Local County Council and FAS will benefit many of the items on the list. A membership of 5 is small and it would be useful to recruit new members and to involve residents from the housing estates as much as possible.

The Built Environment:

The street side premises are interestingly designed to suit the rising level of the street. Premises are well maintained and it is good to see both residential and business premises side by side along the street. The Church of Ireland forms a landmark in the village and appears well. The cobble stone pavement is a nice feature – these require much work to bring them to their best. The cobble paving needs repair in places and good definition at the edges. Some bollards also need attention. The granite slab paving along the lower end of the village is also interesting, this has cracked in many places – probably as a result of cars mounted the slabs. The development at Preston Close and Preston Heights brings life into the village centre.

Landscaping:

The border at the crossroads looks well and gives a nice appearance at that point. The new borders along by Preston Close look well. The entrance to Preston Heights needs landscaping to present a pleasant appearance and since this is visible from the street it is an important place. The entrance and open spaces at the housing estate above "Talking Heads" has good new tree planting – these will mature well and benefit the estate. Individual gardens along the approach roads that maintain their gardens well contribute greatly to the overall landscape of the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

With such an interesting rural setting it would be good to develop a wildlife appreciation or observation project in the village. This could be achieved with the help of the local school and environmental officer. There is no mention of such an item in the plan and this should be considered for inclusion.

Litter Control:

Litter control could be improved somewhat. Litter was noted many places through the village – on the street pavements and particularly at the health centre premises and the Church of Ireland graveyard. A very well organised rota for picking litter, campaigns for extra awareness and consultation with the shops would all help in this regard.

Tidiness:

The overhead cables hopefully will be placed underground at some stage – lobbying by the committee to have such work done is an important function of a committee. The street benches would benefit from painting. Some materials by the side of the vacant shop at Croft court should be removed. There is also a need for treatment of the weedy grasses growing through the pavements especially near Preston Close. Unsightly shed above Talking Heads need a solution.

Residential Areas:

Both Oaklawn and Willowlawn estates are in good condition – many of the items in the plan relate to improvements at the entrances to these estates and these will be welcome. As stated above - having residences right in the main street keeps life in the centre of the village and is very good for the community spirit. The new Preston developments are good except for the approach landscaping to Preston Heights. Individual houses along the approach roads appear well and contribute to the overall appearance of the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Extra street lighting and attention to kerbs and bollards would be major improvements. The road surface in places is a little patchy and definition at the edges needs attention. The approach roads are attractive but do require attention to hedge cutting and verge growth control

General Impression:

Kilmeague is an attractive small village with a number of interesting features. It would be well to preserve the best of these features as the village grows. Attention to detail – litter control, tidiness and weediness in paving would help greatly.