

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kinlough**

Ref: **595**

County: **Leitrim**

Mark: **199**

Category: **B**

Date: **21/06/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	29	30
The Built Environment	40	33	34
Landscaping	40	22	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	13	13
Litter Control	40	33	34
Tidiness	20	13	14
Residential Areas	30	24	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	25	25
General Impression	10	7	8
TOTAL MARK	300	199	205

Overall Developmental Approach:

Kinlough is a long linear village with much new housing development now underway. This can put pressures on community services that hopefully are being considered.

The adjudicator notes that you appear to have a large village to handle from a Tidy Towns point of view and you have just 10 committee members. Hopefully all the other appropriate agencies are giving you all the assistance that they can.

The adjudicator notes that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan was not submitted with the entry documentation.

All towns and villages are required to have a simple straight forward 3 –5 Year Tidy Towns Plan for their area. This Plan is prepared by your Committee in consultation with the appropriate local organisations. It should be no more than seven to ten pages long. The purpose of the Plan is to guide the work of your Tidy Towns Committee and others over the short to medium term

It is encouraging to note that you are working closely with the various residents associations in Kinlough.

The Built Environment:

The Community Centre, a key building in your village is well presented but the welcome sign at the road boundary wall needs to be repainted. Some attractive landscaping was noted at the National School, though the railings and pillars here need to be painted. Attractive hand-painted lettering was noted at the Wellington Bar, and further work like this should be encouraged. At the Church the fine cut stone here gives a very attractive glow to the building. The grass is well maintained here also. There are some attractive stone buildings in the village and these add character to the built environment. Other buildings of course stand out including the Courthouse Restaurant with its display of Award Plaques and neat shrubs. The road boundary wall at the Library needs to be painted. Indeed road boundary walls in a number of locations need attention. Do remember that road boundary walls need to be painted more frequently than the buildings themselves.

The Grotto set back from the road is attractively presented but the grass here should be cut on a regular basis.

A few derelict buildings were noted that detract from the overall appearance of the built environment of your town / village. However there is a way in which perhaps you can make a feature of these buildings pending their removal or restoration. Try and get the owners to agree that they will blank out the window and door openings with heavy waterproof Marine plywood. This should then be painted matt black, and window bars and door panels painted in white. This approach as a temporary measure can look quite effective.

Landscaping:

Some small attractive landscaped areas were noted in the village. Those at the Church of Ireland Church and at the National School caught the eye. At Melvin Fields housing estate some very good landscaping was noted at the entrance area on both sides of the road. It is a pity that the overall visual appearance of this is spoiled a little by littering.

The use of hanging baskets and flower tubs in carefully selected places adds an interesting splash of colour to any town or village. However do make sure that this is not overdone. You should be using hanging baskets and tubs to help bring out the character of your village. and where you have done this is successful.

The young trees on the main street are an attractive feature and will be a really great feature in a few years or so when they have matured a little more. Trees in the village are important in that they help to link the village to the beautiful surrounding countryside.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

In many towns and villages this is an aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition where there can be significant potential for development. All towns and villages have the presence of wildlife to some degree. It is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine the wildlife potential, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly.

If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat Survey carried out of the wildlife in your area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, lakes, canals, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The Survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to your area

This need not be an expensive Survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person in one of your

Schools who might undertake this task for you. Basically the Survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the Survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year.

Using the results of the Wildlife Survey your next step should be do draft a straight forward Plan to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. For example perhaps there is an old Pond in your area that is disused, but with a little work could be an important area for wildfowl.

It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many Schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get involved.

As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof and vandal proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

Litter Control:

Litter control on adjudication day did not reach the standards expected. Litter was noted at the Community Centre, at The Lane, at the entrance to Melvin Fields and Glenview housing estates. Again litter was noted at the Recycling Centre. A lot of litter was noted at Oak Grove estate.

Tidiness:

The Recycling area was very poorly presented. The area around the various disposal bins was very poorly presented with litter, weeds and long grass - hardly encouraging for recycling purposes. It is strongly recommended that this area receive priority attention from your Committee / Local Authority.

Weed growth at the base of kerbs and walls was noted in many areas. Hopefully the untidy open space at the Kinlough sign near the graveyard will be developed.

Some projecting signs were noted in Kinlough and one must ask the question whether they are really necessary from a commercial point of view.

Some apparently abandoned vehicles were noted on the Rossinver side of Oak Grove estate. Another old car was noted that should be screened from public view.

Residential Areas:

Many private houses were very attractively presented some with fine mature landscaping. However it is in regard to some of the housing estates that Kinlough has a serious presentation problem. Melvin Fields is an attractive large open estate with a fine central green. However this area has just 12 trees as part of the landscaping. Many more are required. This area needs an elevated child-friendly central feature. At Glenview estate uncut grass that had not been removed was noted, together with some litter. Near the football field the estate of white houses will ne repainting for 2006. At the Oak Grove estate the high timber railings might be painted to good effect. Small uncut grassed areas were noted here also. The small estate of bungalows off the main street could be improved by the removal of weed growth at kerbing and the cutting of the grass areas. Oakfield Manor will look well in a few years when the trees at the entrance mature a little more.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Generally most approach roads need more detailed attention, and some appear to have received

little maintenance work in recent months - for example The Lane. The Buckode approach roads needs much work, though it is acknowledged that construction work is in progress along this road. On the Rossinver approach damaged verges, and poor road surfacing was noted.

General Impression:

A co-ordinated approach to the implementation of a 3-5 year Tidy Towns Plan for Rossinver is required. Using the Plan you cxan set priorities for the years ahead. Good luck in your future projects.