

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killeevan**

Ref: **718**

County: **Monaghan**

Mark: **181**

Category: **A**

Date: **02/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	26	25
Landscaping	40	20	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	11
Litter Control	40	34	33
Tidiness	20	13	13
Residential Areas	30	16	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	22	22
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	181	178

Overall Developmental Approach:

The adjudicator would like to thank the Tidy Towns Committee for their village map and Tidy Towns Action Plan. Your Plan is a basic straight forward one that is clean in its objectives - well done. Your small committee of just six people seems to have good community support. You are working with the relevant agencies and in that way you will maximise your progress in the competition.

The Built Environment:

Killeevan is a small village that appears to have a long history - the tower at St. Lukes has a date of 1790. The two churches dominate the built environment. The Church of Ireland Church looks down towards the village from its elevated site. The work at the church gates looks quite effective and the silver colour used is appropriate. At the Catholic Church the gates here need to be painted, as well as the outside of the road boundary wall. Across the road the car park area looked quite bare and had just a few trees. Some landscaping here would make a great difference to the overall appearance of a large area that lacks colour. The shop looked well with the strong ivy growth. Up the road the restored cottage looks well.

A derelict building was noted on the road to the Catholic Church that needs attention. However there is a way in which perhaps you can make a feature of this building pending removal or restoration. Try and get the owner 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 in white. This approach as a temporary measure can look quite effective.

Landscaping:

Planting was noted at the sloping bank above the roadway. However this area can be improved still further if the grass can be better presented here. This will take a lot of effort and frequent cutting to achieve a desirable lush green appearance. It is also a difficult slope to cut. However it is the natural landscaping that dominates in Killeevan. The fine mature trees and naturally occurring shrubs provide a fine setting for the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The river area was looking reasonably well presented on adjudication day. 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 further 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 locally 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 was good on the day of adjudication and some litter was noted in the Catholic Church car park. Some litter was also noted on the walk to St. Lukes. Considering the volume of traffic that passes though the village every day you have achieved a surprisingly high level of litter control. Well done to everyone involved.

Tidiness:

An untidy site with damaged timber fencing was noted just above the shop. The grass here was quite untidy and the area needs attention. Weed growth in the Catholic Church car park is still a problem and needs appropriate attention.

Residential Areas:

The few houses in the village were well presented and the owners are continuing to follow a high standard of presentation noted by the adjudicator in 2004. The landscaping associated with these properties was also effective.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The overall presentation of all approach roads is of critical importance. It is this that gives the first impression of your town or village. Attractive well presented approach roads give a great impression of a community that cares about how others see them.

Your verges have been cut but the cut grass has not been taken away. The result is an untidy appearance with new grass growth trying to grow through the dead cut grass. Can you make a rule for yourselves and your helpers that all cut grass must be taken away on the day that it is cut. Do remember also that verges will need to be cut on quite a regular basis if you are to achieve a lush green well kept appearance of banks and roadside verges. A tractor and mower will not give the neat well kept appearance that can be achieved by a motor mower.

Do make sure that any old stone walls on approach roads are not in need of repair. Gaps due to collapse can look quite untidy. Fences should be kept in good repair and do cut long grass that may tend to grow up through the timber fencing. Hedging on approach roads needs trimming from time to time but do avoid bird nesting time of the year..

It is important to wash the town / village name signs from time to time and make sure that any poles used for such signs are painted. Likewise try and get the Local Authority to repaint the poles used for Speed Limit Signs.

Field gates can become a feature of your approach roads. It may be possible for you to get agreement from the relevant landowners that all damaged gates will be replaced, and that all gates will be painted to a common colour scheme.

General Impression:

Killeevan village is attractive and maintains its character despite a location on a busy roadway. Well done to the small but effective Tidy Towns Committee and their community of helpers.

Second Round Adjudication: