

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcommon**

Ref: **139**

County: **Tipperary North**

Mark: **203**

Category: **A**

Date: **25/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	25
The Built Environment	40	29	26
Landscaping	40	31	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	28	28
Tidiness	20	14	13
Residential Areas	30	24	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	300	203	189

Overall Developmental Approach:

Kilcommon Community Council is obviously a very hard working one which shows a great deal of care in its local environment. The adjudicator wishes you all the best in relation to tackling your problems in relation to a sewerage scheme. You would appear to have a high level of voluntary help and work hard at your fund-raising. Many thanks for your map which was most useful on adjudication day. However, it is essential at this stage in the competition, that you formulate a work programme - this document need only be two or three pages long, outlining your plans and objectives for the village's future. You should also set a time-frame against the achievement of these. You could even use this document and reports for previous years for a starting point.

The Built Environment:

The school and grounds looked extremely well - it is a most charming building with well maintained grounds and attractive hanging baskets outside. The church was undergoing major work on the day and looks to be nearly completed. It is a fine building with well maintained grounds. Hayes' Funeral Home looked very fresh, with its attractive stepped gable and the pub looked quite charming and fresh. P. Burke's looked well. There are a number of properties for sale in the village. Do ensure that any plastic signs are replaced with ones of a more traditional timber variety.

Landscaping:

This is an aspect of the competition that you obviously enjoy immensely. The Prayer Garden looked extremely well cared for, with its thatched Oratory with attractive murals inside - the plastic magpie on the roof had the adjudicator fooled for a while! This is an attractive landscaped space filled with planted beds, stone Stations of the Cross, a timber statue, water feature and holy well. There are seating areas to sit and contemplate and also an external altar. There is scope for further development in this area of the competition. There are another number of locations along the streets of the village that would benefit from - and could be used to create - incidental landscaped spaces of an equally high standard.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is important at this stage of the competition that you progress this category in some way. Perhaps one of the committee members could liaise with teachers in the school in order to get the local school children involved in some wildlife projects such as a wildlife garden, building bird feeders, or making study of wildlife habitats in the locality? Consult your Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas for potential projects.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was generally good, although there were a few papers scattered along the roadsides of the village.

Tidiness:

Weed control was a problem on the kerbsides on the Nenagh Road and also on the Limerick Road. Weeds were also noted at the bridge on the far side of the village. The recycling area was fine. Do not neglect outbuildings when considering overall presentation - there were a number of tin roofs which needed repainting in their traditional red colour.

Residential Areas:

Do ensure that any new houses integrate into the village and respect its character when completed. This can be achieved by the use of appropriate finishes such as materials and landscaping. An attractive imposing house with its original sash windows was noted at the entrance to the village from the main road. A quite charming house for sale in the centre of the village will hopefully be restored to its former glory, while maintaining its original features.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The post box had been freshly painted at the Community Centre. The village nameplate on the approach from the main road appeared quite grubby, as was that from the Limerick Road where signage was also quite rusty. This road was quite overgrown and it was difficult to read the nameplate as a result. The village is quite difficult to find from the main road - maybe you should get in touch with the County Council in relation to getting signage in place, directing people to it. Ferns were evident in the hedgerows and much evidence of birdlife was to be heard on far side of the village. This road affords the visitor a clear and magnificent view of the Prayer Garden from this side.

General Impression:

Kilcommon is a most attractive centre which, as mentioned by last year's adjudicator, has the potential to do extremely well in the competition. It was a pleasure for this adjudicator to visit the village for the first time. Congratulations to all concerned with its upkeep.

