

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilsheelan**

Ref: **563**

County: **Tipperary South**

Mark: **241**

Category: **A**

Date: **09/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	38	38
The Built Environment	40	31	30
Landscaping	40	36	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	24	24
Litter Control	40	34	34
Tidiness	20	17	17
Residential Areas	30	26	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	27	26
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	241	238

Overall Developmental Approach:

Unfortunately the adjudicator did not have the benefit of either your map or work programme in the village on adjudication day, as these had not been forwarded to the Department of the Environment in time for inclusion with the judge's pack of information. In order to avoid this problem in the future do ensure that, if your submission is dependant on further information that you at least include a draft form of it in your submission. They were read after visiting the town but there is no substitute for having them "on the spot"! One can certainly see from a visit to the village that it is one which its residents most definitely care about! Good luck with all your future initiatives.

The Built Environment:

The old ruined church and graveyard in the centre of the village are a marvellous asset to have. The school and boundary wall were both very fresh and its grounds were well maintained. The charming church in stone and plaster looked well, with nicely maintained grounds. The Health Centre looked fine as did the Post Office. In terms of commercial premises both Robinson's, the Convenience Store, Sullivan's and Nagle's all looked well and quite fresh. Do discourage curved plastic canopies and encourage their replacement with more traditional fabric awnings.

Landscaping:

This is a category of the competition that you obviously enjoy. The attractive grassy expanses in the village centre with their marvellous planted beds looked well. The car park and picnic area was nicely landscaped with a stone wall and lavender to the front. The lavender theme was continued at the welcome sign and joined by some cheerful snapdragons. A bed in the centre of the village on the Carrick-on-Suir side appeared overgrown. The marvellous grotto with its large grassy mound and freshly whitewashed walls surround, is a well maintained focal point of the village. The charming graveyard with its ruined church has been previously mentioned. The village pump is simply presented on the Green. Do ensure that dead grass is removed once it has been cut - dead grass was apparent to the vast green space on the Fethard Road. The graveyard is quite charming and was beautifully maintained.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Kilsheelan is indeed fortunate in having the benefit of the majestic river Suir running through it! The adjudicator was pleased to hear about your funding from MSD for a riverside wildlife project and looks forward to seeing it in years to come. Bird tables were noted at the school and wild flowers in the form of valerian were noted atop a stone wall opposite. The riverside area looks most attractive and was simple with grassy banks of well cut grass.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was reasonably good, although even one or two papers create a bad impression in a village of Kilsheelan's size. A couple of papers were evident on the Fethard Road and on the Carrick-on-Suir Road. Quite a lot was evident on the road beyond the bridge to the castle.

Tidiness:

The village has a generally neat and ordered appearance. The Bring Centre was neatly presented at the Health Centre grounds. Perhaps you could consider some form of screening to the bins themselves in order that they blend in more successfully with their surroundings, with the possibility of nominating them for the new Bring Centre Award next year? Weed control was a problem to kerbs on the Fethard Road, leading to the bridge near the village nameplate and to the brick paving adjacent to the grotto. Damage was evident to the brick paved disc by the riverside area.

Residential Areas:

A charming pink cottage on Main Street was admired. Bruach na h-Abhainn is a new estate being built in the centre of the village. A magnificent garden on the Fethard Road was admired, as were the charming houses in shades of yellow in an established housing estate on this road. Some attractive planting was noted outside a stone house in the village centre. Established estates such as Wood Crescent and Garden Grove were well presented. Attractive hanging baskets and colourful floral displays were noted to a house in the terrace near the Post Office. One or two boundary walls were in need of attention on the Carrick-on-Suir side of the village however.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Carrick-on-Shannon Road, the well cut wide grass verges and attractive permanent planting were admired. On the Clonmel Road, the grass verges had been cut but the dead grass had yet to be removed on this road and perhaps some strimming could be considered beneath the trees. Do bear in mind weeds at kerbsides, there were some minor problem areas.

General Impression:

Kilsheelan is an attractive village in some tranquil lush scenery. Good luck with your future work.

Second Round Adjudication:

It was a great pleasure for your 2nd round adjudicator to visit Kilsheelan, a village that has given so much encouragement to other towns and villages to do well in the Tidy Towns Competition. The riverside amenity area was almost totally litter free on the day of adjudication. This is a superb amenity area and an excellent wildlife viewing area. A Little Egret was noted there. The dead grass in the small area by the lifebelt and the walking man sign by the river should be removed as it makes the area look quite untidy. The approach roads with their excellent grassed areas were looking well, though some verge areas were in need of a cut. On the Waterford approach some of the road kerbs were painted white and some not painted. Perhaps the non painted kerbing looked best. Some directional sign poles and field gates need to be painted. The wide white kerbing at the central green area needs to be painted also. One of the difficulties of having so much kerbing is that marks show up so quickly. The old petrol pump area needs to be revitalised by painting the black plinth and painting the pumps in the correct shade of red.

The adjudicator is not in favour of the display of retail goods on the pavement as was noted in Kilsheelan. Apart from looking rather untidy such displays can cause major difficulties for people in wheelchairs or the visually disabled.

A little litter was noted at the Bring Centre where the litter bin was overflowing, and litter was also noted further along that road on the left hand side towards the Church.