

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kinnegad**

Ref: **56**

County: **Westmeath**

Mark: **163**

Category: **C**

Date: **21/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	26
The Built Environment	40	24	24
Landscaping	40	27	25
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	11	11
Litter Control	40	21	21
Tidiness	20	8	8
Residential Areas	30	21	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	19	19
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	163	160

Overall Developmental Approach:

Many thanks for your application, map, town enhancement plan and entry form supplement. The effort of the Tidy Towns Committee is most evident from the detail contained within. Your town enhancement plan is most detailed and sets out realistic goals for the future of your community. May the adjudicator take this opportunity to wish you every success with this strategy.

The Built Environment:

It would be impossible to commence this category without mention of the beautiful church and grounds which is the focal point of your town. In an area of such high-traffic volume and commercial endeavour the church stands aloft as a trophy of what can be achieved by a focused community. Heartfelt congratulations to all concerned. Buckley's Shopping Centre continues to thrive, and in doing so has not overlooked its responsibilities to the community. It remains a very well-presented building and looks very inviting. The Vocational Training Centre, one of the older buildings of the village, presents itself very well. The new development on the main street in the place of Harry's is eagerly anticipated, and Bracken's, Coyne's and the Cottage Tea Rooms are all very well maintained. Unfortunately, the derelict industrial site on the old Galway Road remains an eyesore. Your planned redevelopment, however, is noted.

Landscaping:

The staked trees along the main street should pay dividends in the years to come. The seating and plantings in the church yard are most tasteful and scenic. The efforts made by traders on the main street did not go unnoticed, and their hanging baskets and window boxes are a welcome addition to the streetscape. The Dublin roundabout is an unrecognisable version of its former self, having been landscaped and weeded. This enhances the approach to the town considerably, and is followed by the shrubbery on the boundaries of the park which is another inspired addition.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The park, with its riverside location should prove an excellent wildlife habitat in the next few years. Valuable points are to be gained here.

Litter Control:

As commented on last year, Kinnegad's litter management strategy is alive and well! Only scatterings of litter were evident on the main street of the town, but on the day of inspection it was disappointing to note dumping at the 8-bay recycling facilities.

Tidiness:

It is unfortunate that the large advertising hoardings on both sides of the building at the Dublin end of the town has not yet been removed. While this may generate income for the owners of this building, it is over-obtrusive and possibly unnecessary. Your efforts to have this removed are noted, however, and it is hoped that you are successful. A little weeding needs to be carried out on some of the approaches to the town, and car parking remains one of your biggest problems.

Residential Areas:

Clos an Blinn was a credit to its inhabitants on the day of inspection. Lawns and gardens were well maintained, with many residents displaying nice flowers. The residences along the main street were, for the most part in excellent shape and the estate on the left on the Mullingar Road was neatly presented, although the green area looked a little unruly.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Verges on all approach roads were reasonably well maintained, and the litter evident is most likely from passing traffic. The introduction of flower beds at the approach should be considered, as this always invokes a sentiment of welcome. The reconstruction of the bridge was positively noted, and as alluded to above, it is hoped that you are successful with the removal of some signage. The adjudicator notes that you plan to introduce a "side to path" method of parking in the town, the virtues of which cannot be extolled enough as it would extremely enhance the streetscape.

General Impression:

Kinnegad is undergoing a major metamorphosis at present. When the town is eventually by-passed, and with the continued hard work of the committee and community Kinnegad will become a town in its own right, and no longer be viewed as a stopping point on cross country- journeys. It will become a place to visit, and all concerned should be proud of the work carried out to date. It is important to continue this work ethic, the fruits of which will become evident in the near future, which looks bright for Kinnegad.

Second Round Adjudication:

