

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kiltegan**

Ref: **130**

County: **Wicklow**

Mark: **228**

Category: **A**

Date: **12/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	33	32
The Built Environment	40	28	27
Landscaping	40	34	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	16
Litter Control	40	34	33
Tidiness	20	16	16
Residential Areas	30	22	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	37	36
General Impression	10	8	7
TOTAL MARK	300	228	221

Overall Developmental Approach:

Considerable development has taken place in the past few years in Kiltegan and the result is very striking. Road surfaces, footpaths, wall buildings and underground cabling have transformed the village greatly. The 12-person committee is a strong number for the size of the village and represents a great commitment. The need for a plan under this section of the competitions is reminded. A plan could itemise the aims of the committee, list priorities, and state when, by whom and what resources are needed for each. An amassment each year would help to keep the work in focus. Your work with public authorities helps to succeed with projects.

The Built Environment:

There are many fine buildings in the village and the stone quality of buildings and walls gives a great character to the village. The well-painted business premises were noted. Some attention to the railings and surrounds at Duffy's would be helpful. The dilapidated building on the Aughrim Road is unsightly and hopefully this will be resolved soon. The house for sale at the entrance from Baltinglass looks a little neglected at this stage and the metal sheds in the background are unattractive. The bridge is very attractive – unfortunately it is not possible to see the best view of this – from the side. Work at clearing weed grasses around this is noted but the dead weeds need to be removed at this stage. The entrance to Humewood Castle lends character to the view along Aughrim Road. St Patrick's Church is a lovely landmark in the village. The Health Centre and crèche both appear in very good decorative order.

Landscaping:

The green is very attractive and at a very strategic place in the village. The work currently in progress of pavements and kerbs is disrupting this at the moment and hopefully a stone facing will be placed at the corner towards Baltinglass. The shrubbery at the GAA grounds looks very colourful and is filled with all year round interest plants. The shrubbery on entry to the village from Hackettstown is very attractive. The Crimson King Maples trees at the Hillview estate look very well. The containers along the Aughrim road have good potential but they do not seem to be making an impact at present – perhaps the height of the plants relative to the size and impact of the containers is out of scale. Individual gardens along the roadsides make a very positive contribution to the overall landscape of the village. The backdrop of such richly planted countryside provides a perfect landscape setting for the village. Both the grounds of the church and the cemetery on Hackettstown road are very well cared for.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

A project to further the observation and appreciation of the natural environment would be very welcome. Projects involving local school children are particularly valuable. Nearby locations could be found - woodland or riverside areas could offer much in this regard.

Litter Control:

There is a very good litter management programme in place and the village and surrounds look particularly clean. The disposal of the waste collected always offers a challenge and it would be interesting to see the programme for this.

Tidiness:

With the new road surface and footpaths a considerable step forward has been made. The dilapidated house and the metal sheds in the background are unhelpful, The new lamp standards with underground cabling look very well and when this work is complete it will mark an important advance. The mesh fence by the GAA grounds is not the most attractive.

Residential Areas:

Both Hillview estate and Castle oaks estates look well cared for. The houses along the Aughrim Road are generally well tended. The new estate Castle Court has good entrance treatment and the open spaces inside are managed attractively. Individual houses along the approach roads look well and contribute well to the overall appearance of the village.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The new road surfaces make a great difference and these unify the village. The footpaths are also very helpful and when these are completed they will greatly enhance the village as also will the undergrounding of all the cables. The approach roads avail of the richness of the tree lined areas and form a lovely village entrance. Well cared for grass verges were noted giving a welcome entrance to the village

General Impression:

Great strides have been made with developments in the village over the past few years. With new building developments arising in every village it is important to keep a watchful eye on planning applications to ensure they conform with the style and nature of the village.

Second Round Adjudication:

Kiltegan is an attractive village where the use of Wicklow Granite as a building material gives a warm glow to such properties. On the Hacketstown approach road the black cable at the grass verge on the left looks untidy and needs attention from the appropriate authority. It was noted that a number of the village signs are in need of repainting. On the day of 2nd round adjudication the approach roads looked well and the Aughrim Road approach with the grass margin and old stone walls looked especially attractive.

In the village the piles of stones on the grass verge opposite the village pump detract from otherwise good verge presentation here. Beside the pump an old timber plant container needs attention. The central landscaped area is a very attractive feature and will look even better when the stone walls is continued along the Baltinglass road side of this landscaped area. The concrete block needs to be removed from this area also.

The 2nd round adjudicator confirms the views of the 1st round adjudicator on the need for a 3 Year Tidy Town Plan for Kiltegan.