

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knockananna**

Ref: **317**

County: **Wicklow**

Mark: **210**

Category: **A**

Date: **06/07/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	37	37
The Built Environment	40	29	28
Landscaping	40	33	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	17	17
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	14	14
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	27
General Impression	10	6	6
TOTAL MARK	300	210	213

Overall Developmental Approach:

Knockananna is situated in a very picturesque location and enjoys the benefit of the most scenic backdrop of the Wicklow hills. The items on the plan are very important and by working through these good headway will be made. There are a number of projects in hand as can be seen from the information with the entry form and by observation in the village. The ongoing work of maintenance of the existing facilities and attention to detail is all-important in keeping a village looking well.

The Built Environment:

The new Church looks very well and fits into the site snugly. The old church hopefully will be improved as needed. The post office is well presented. The Health Centre is well painted but the roadside wall needs attention to cleaning or painting. Road splash unfortunately causes discoloration to walls – frequently it is sufficient to wash these for cleaning. The farm buildings near the church are very well treated by painting all the structures in one grey/blue colour, which is very effective. The school is well presented and Jacobs and the Wagon Wheels are fine. The thatched cottages add an extra interesting dimension to the village. The many stonewalls add good character to the village. the 1950 Holy Year memorial. is currently being worked on.

Landscaping:

There are many attractive landscape features through the village – the inserts in the wall with plantings around the trees looks well and is a novel idea, Similar wall inserts opposite the post office avails of space for a seat also. The planting to the back of the Holy Year memorial is well planned with lots of interest for all year round effect. The graveyard is very well maintained and is a great tribute to the generations past buried there. The area of graveyard to the road frontage has yet to be reached. The 1798 memorial looks well. The green space above the 1798 memorial by the 8 houses is well treated with good tree planting and well cared for grass. Individual gardens with road frontage contribute well by the care and attention to their gardens.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is an excellent idea to have children involved in wildlife appreciation. The bird feeding is a good way of encouraging such interest. This could be expanded to recording the sightings of birds in various places and further to plants and other aspects of the wildlife of the area. The triangular feature outside the Wagon Wheels is not making sufficient impact at the moment and needs a more bold landscape feature.

Litter Control:

There is a good litter control system in the village although some litter was spotted on a number of occasions along the footpaths of the village. Details of how the litter is disposed of, what arrangements there are for recycling and if there are any campaigns to reduce waste or to compost materials.

Tidiness:

The work ongoing at the moment by the 1950 Rome Holy Year causes a lot of disruption and untidiness. When this is finished there will be a vast improvement. The white timber post and rail fence close to the school needs attention as some of the members are broken and need painting. It is good to read that the telephone kiosk will be replaced – this will be welcome. A mobile home in a field on the main street is a little unusual to find in the street. The gate and surrounds behind the pump is a little untidy

Residential Areas:

The number of street side residences in the main village area is very positive – it is good to see people living right in the centre of the village – this creates a very good community spirit and sense of ownership of the village. These houses are well maintained - a pride is noted in their ownership and upkeep. The small housing estate of 8 semidetached one-story houses look well, the open green and surrounds are well cared for. Single houses along the roadside just outside the village are looked after well and contribute well to the roadside appearance on the approach roads.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The road surfaces through the village have become very patchy and rough in places. These must cause more serious problems in winter when frost cold and more wetness are normal. A complete resurfacing was indicated in last year's submission to take place in 2006. The sooner this occurs the better, as it is both unpleasant and unsafe as it is. On leaving the village the rural hedgerow quickly returns – this is attractive, the conflict between cutting back the hedgerows and grass verges for safety and the retentions of as much as possible for wildlife and visual attractiveness is a delicate balance.

General Impression:

The village has great potential to progress further. There are a number of improvements in hand,

which will help greatly. Very good work is currently being done to maintain the existing features. –
Well done to all concerned.