

Tidy Towns Competition 2005

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilkee**

Ref: **592**

County: **Clare**

Mark: **246**

Category: **C**

Date: **09/08/2005**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2005	Mark Awarded 2004
Overall Developmental Approach	50	47	46
The Built Environment	40	36	35
Landscaping	40	32	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	27	26
Litter Control	40	33	33
Tidiness	20	15	13
Residential Areas	30	24	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	24	24
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	246	239

Overall Developmental Approach:

The well bound entry details and map were of great assistance on the day of the adjudication. The committee of fifteen are comprised of some members who also have an involvement with other groups in Kilkee and this is very valuable in that there is networking throughout. It is obvious that the Kilkee Town Council are very supportive of your work and are your main partner in your endeavours to achieve your aims and objectives. It is good to note also that the general community support your endeavours both in a financial manner and also with commitment of time. The two events mentioned at the end of your submission - a fund raising concert held on August Monday and also the Harvest Welcome Home Weekend held in September are worthwhile projects. This is a further way of bonding the community and receiving monies in order to further your projects. We would also suggest that you consider entering other competitions (if you have not already done so) such as National Spring Clean Week, (run by An Taisce); Green Schools; Golden Mile; IBAL (Irish Business Against Litter); Anti Litter League; Pride of Place (all-Ireland competition); LEADER Environmental Initiatives and County Council Competitions.

The Built Environment:

Most business premises in the town and at the West and East Ends were looking well. Especially admired was the Tea Shop now adjoining the existing premises at the West End. This has a beautiful

view out onto the sea and is a pleasant amenity for visitors to enjoy at the conclusion of their walk over the cliffs. As mentioned by you work is taking place and plans are in hand in respect of some derelict premises around the town. Hopefully the derelict bungalow at Hodges Green will receive attention in the not too distant future. At the East End the toilets and other buildings in this area are well maintained. Also, the Churches, Schools and Garda Barracks were well presented showing an obvious commitment to their wellbeing.

Landscaping:

Occasional planting has taken place in a number of places around the town and there is obviously a great spirit towards presenting Kilkee in the best light possible. However, work was being undertaken on the flower bed on the Circular Road and in a couple of other areas. We would suggest that an earlier start in the year would ensure readiness for the main season. It was good to note that landscaping work has commenced at Hodges Green which has been a poor site over the last number of years – well done in your persistence in this matter. The Town Council is responsible for the maintenance of the beach and seafront area and must be complimented on their job which is well done in this respect. The picnic table also previously mentioned at George's Head was repaired and again well done on this project. The Marian Shrine on Church Rd., was being enhanced by the building of a new stone wall nearby

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Congratulations to Kilkee on retaining your Blue Flag in 2005. The wildlife display boards previously erected in various places are worthwhile projects. However, some of the glass was dirty on these boards and would need to be cleaned so that visitors may read the welcome information given. Well done with regard to the design of a machine for cleaning the beach. We note that this both cleans the beach and also protects the wild life that frequent the shore line, both of which functions are important.

Litter Control:

There was very little litter to be seen around Kilkee and litter bins were placed in strategic positions. However, at lunch time there was still some litter from the previous evening - cans and bottles - remaining at George's Head. A daily litter pick would be required at this site. Congratulations to the Schools; Scoil Realt na Mara who have retained their Green Flag in 2005 and also to the parents and pupils of the Community College who encourage the students there to refrain from littering.

Tidiness:

The promenade, town centre and approach roads were mostly looking neat and tidy with kerbs weed free throughout. Kilkee Bay Hotel was looking well except for a large sign which was broken on the grounds relating to some party nights that are planned.

Residential Areas:

Most private houses in and round Kilkee were well presented and contributing to the Tidy Town's effort. We note that some residents who own holiday homes have no interest in the town or indeed the appearance of their property on a long term basis. This is a pity and perhaps some motivation could be provided to encourage them to assist you with your work. As in other towns there are many new residential properties in Kilkee and again we would stress that these sites, when work is completed, should be left in a neat and tidy manner and also that the new residents should be invited to join with you in your endeavours

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As a new sewerage treatment plant is being installed in Kilkee and pipes have to be laid for this project, all the roads have not been re-surfaced. However, work has commenced and a number of areas are looking better now especially the Church Road. Signage throughout Kilkee is mostly good but road markings in general need attention. Roadside banks need to be trimmed on the Circular Road and also verges should be trimmed on the way to the speed signs on the Kilrush Road. The little train for children to travel through the town and up to George's Head was seen during our adjudication. This is another welcome family friendly facility for the holiday resort and was quite busy with mothers and children utilising same on a day when the weather was not too good.

General Impression:

The general impression of Kilkee is that the spirit of pride of place here is extremely strong and there is the potential to do well in the competition in the years ahead. The monitoring and adjustment of your audit and action plan is the key to achieving your aims.

Second Round Adjudication:

The bleakness of the approach to Kilkee from Ennis does not prepare the visitor for the charm of the seafront, which comes as a relief. The problem posed by this approach road has never been properly addressed, and indeed it poses several difficulties, mainly because planting is so problematic in such an exposed area – but there are native trees and plants which will survive, as seen in similar spots. The approach could be made more friendly-looking if all frontages were presented to a higher standard and stronger colours were introduced on some of the houses, and if the unsightly poles were removed and wires placed underground. As to the tidiness of the town itself, the central streets would benefit enormously by the removal of the same type of poles and wires which give a kind of primitive 1940s look, and the placing of a better standard of electric lamps; this is of course extremely expensive, but it has been done to great effect in, for example, Kilrush. The roundabout at Marine Parade/Strand Line would benefit from the planting of low wind-resistant shrubs. Some of the road surfaces, as mentioned by the first adjudicator, are really very poor; however, the surfacing of the car park near the Pollock Holes was excellent; the stone wall on the inland side here needed serious attention at the date of second adjudication in mid-August. The much discussed Hodge's and Alexander's greens were much improved; with all the foot traffic of holidaymakers the only final solution to the edges of areas such as these is stone or concrete kerbing. Very little litter was seen, even the notorious George's Head was litter-free; the only serious litter was at the intersection of the Esplanade and Pound Street. It would be well to give consideration to the negative points mentioned above, for Kilkee has, as always, real potential to be an all-Ireland winner. These few negatives points aside, the second adjudicator had never seen Kilkee looking so neat, and the substantial increase in marks proposed by the first adjudicator have been warmly endorsed.