

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killaloe** Ref: **73**
County: **Clare** Mark: **225**
Category: **C** Date(s): **23/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	27
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	225

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the comprehensively completed application form, sections of your work plan for 2006 and a map of the Town and its environs that was extremely helpful to the adjudicator in locating areas of relevance. Your status as a Heritage Town and location on Lough Derg attracts large numbers of visitors and that was the case on a pleasant summers day.

The interaction that you have fostered with the local authority, relevant agencies and indeed the main Tidy Towns sponsors Super Value is paying dividends.

There have been many positive improvements to Killaloe over the last few years as a result of this partnership approach.

The Built Environment:

The lure of Killaloe as a top lakeside amenity has attracted the rich and famous, it also has attracted quite a lot of developers if the level of building ongoing at present is anything to go by.

It is hoped that the Planning Authority will endeavour to ensure that all the originality of Killaloe is not affected.

It is noted that you have had discussions with the Council regarding the level of dereliction in the town and Carrick Lane is an area that needs to be revitalised.

As well as a number of imposing buildings that have fallen into decay in the Town centre, there are one or two on the outskirts that need to be addressed and made good.

Planning notices on one or two of these buildings suggest that they will be refurbished in the near future.

The Main Churches both St Flannan's and the RC Church, the Schools and the Garda Station, which I presume houses the Courthouse at present, were all well presented.

The following commercial properties were noted; Kincora House Guesthouse, Walshs Pub at top of man

street, Heaneys Hair Salon nice mix of blushstone and brown colours, Derg Credit Union, Mollys on The Bridge.

A number of very attractive private residences were very much in keeping with the architecture and streetscape of the town.

Crotty's has a very attractive frontage but is spoiled by a proliferation of advertising signs.

The area around the Forge and Super Value looks as if it has been re painted, as it was very acceptable presentation wise.

The sport clubs, GAA, Tennis and Pitch and Putt, also deserve credit for maintaining facilities to a high standard.

Landscaping:

Your intention to get professional advice prior to embarking on any major landscaping programme in the future is very laudable, it is something that this adjudicator has been encouraging committees to do in reports over the years.

Killaloe has good mix of both planned and natural planting arrangements.

For instance wild flowers grow at will by the canal and on the lakeside banks profusely.

There are a number of impressive planting arrangements to be seen in areas such as Harbour Village.

There are also a number of roadside stone beds that are a little choked and need to be thinned out.

The colourful hanging baskets and other forms of planters took the eye.

Most notable was the simplicity of the flower boxes on the windows of the two stone cottages near the main bridge junction.

Overall a good standard.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your initiative to get the business community on board is practical as it will leverage some sponsorship of resources for this category.

I would suggest that you invite a wildlife enthusiast, that has knowledge of the species particular to the area, and ask advice on the development and siting of one or two specific projects.

Get the school children involved as kids bring enthusiasm to things of this nature, excuse the pun it was not intentional.

Suffice to say that Killaloe is one of the main havens for wildlife preservation in the country.

It was pleasant to relax and watch the mallard meandering on canal near Grotto.

Litter Control:

The litter control was acceptable given that adjudication took place on a very busy weekend day.

Bins were placed at appropriate sections of the town but were rather full and were probably due to cleaned out the following day.

There are few black spots and these are not obvious in that they are not in the Town centre.

You as a Committee are doing your utmost and it is incumbent upon locals, and more importantly visitors, to keep Killaloe clean and litter free.

Waste Minimisation:

The steps that you have taken in this category are ones that fall into the concept of Race Against Waste. To further your involvement you should consult the publication included with the application package and see additional options are available to you.

The schools, if not already in the scheme, should be encouraged to participate in the Green Flag Programme

Tidiness:

The standard in the tidiness section was rather mixed, there was too much evidence of decayed weed growth at kerbsides at some outlying areas on minor roads out of town.

A number of buildings were in a quite untidy looking condition, rusting galvanised roofs, and in the case of a prominent business very poor maintenance of areas adjoining premises.

The Canal Bank walk had weed over growth that was killing the wild flowers at base of wall.

More due diligence is needed and more encouragement from the Committee to owners of premises that are offenders.

Residential Areas:

The formation of residents associations takes a lot of burden off the Committee as it gives ownership back to

the locals.

The adjudicator visited all the estates listed and found that efforts were being made to up grade and improve. The St Luas Villas was of mixed standard, some excellently kept homesteads but unfortunately a very untidy "green" area and over grown boundary area also.

The Newtown Terrace of houses on the Tuamgraney Road were very well maintained, as were those down from the Fire Station.

The newer estates, or in some cases holiday home developments, have blended in well.

The Harbour Village, with its excellently layout and landscaping arrangements, caught the eye of this adjudicator.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main entrances were very inviting with secluded trees and extended footpaths in the case of the Tuamgraney entrance.

The Limerick entrance was less visually appealing but was very acceptable.

The condition of link roads in the town and vicinity was not so good, it is important that the County Council are made aware, via local representatives, of the urgency to upgrade these.

Signs were clean and visible and the Heritage Town Identification signs were prominent.

General Impression:

Killaloe is a town of major historical significance in Ireland and that fact should be promoted to the fullest.

For most it is seen as one of the places to visit in the Shannon Region.

It has a pleasant and inviting appeal and we wish you the Committee all the best in your good work into the future.