

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilworth** Ref: **297**
County: **Cork (North)** Mark: **264**
Category: **B** Date(s): **24/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	40
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	264

Overall Development Approach:

Kilworth Town Renewal Committee is certainly of a reasonable size at 10-strong. You have a good working relationship with Cork County Council, the Heritage Council, FAS, Blackwater Resource Development and Coillte. The adjudicator was sorry to hear that you do not receive the support that you should do from the local community. Good luck with your plans to upgrade the pump house area.

The Built Environment:

The main streets of the town looked well on adjudication day. The adjudicator was pleased to see that many of the buildings retain their original sash windows such as the Dragon's Den which has an attractive traditional front. Carmel's Garden Centre appeared quite fresh and Maurice Hanley Car Sales was quite neat. The Church looked well with its tubs outside and has a quite classical design – it does need painting though especially its boundary wall which was cracked in places. The School looked well and the GAA building was very fresh with its attractive new gates to well maintained grounds. Dinny's Lounge Bar is quite charming.

Landscaping:

There are some lovely incidental landscaped spaces throughout – forming surprising but effective grassed areas between buildings! The attractive picnic area on the Mitchelstown approach looked well however, the grass was very dry due to the hot weather over the previous number of weeks. The rose beds looked quite magnificent. Another attractive landscaped space was admired further in with a lovely stonewall opposite. The tubs, rose bed and bench in another space in the town centre looked well and its bird box was noted. There is an attractive stone building and planted gravel bed on the Ballyporeen Road. The adjudicator was delighted to see the retention of the old milestone which had been freshly painted. Another attractive touch was the clematis growing up the side of Market House.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Glanseskin Woods looked attractive but unfortunately litter was evident to the riverside on the day in the vicinity of the picnic area. The adjudicator was pleased to see that the entrance area had been upgraded and that you had planted new trees.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was very good with only that at the woods evidenced on the day. Your daily litter patrol is obviously paying dividends, as is your participation in the Litter Challenge.

Waste Minimisation:

You mention relocating the bring banks – where are they going to be relocated to? This category of the competition relates to waste management, segregation, recycling and composting issues. Do read your Tidy Towns Handbook for ideas for furthering this aspect of your submission. The Race Against Waste Brochure also contains some good ideas. Are the local schools participating in the Green Flags initiative? If so, they could be of great assistance to you in relation to these issues.

Tidiness:

On first impressions the town looked very neat and ordered. You have one or two problem areas such as a house in bad condition in the town centre which had bullocks grazing in its front garden and sported broken windows. This is a most attractive building in its prominent location - is it a protected structure - can it be restored? Do screen messy yard areas from public view. Outbuildings should be attended to when considering presentation – a rusty roof to a building on the Lismore side of the town near the Church should be painted up.

Residential Areas:

There are a number of new housing estates including Cois Choillte which should be landscaped further. Pairc na gCapaill looked well. Do ensure that they don't detract from the town's unique character or style. There are some lovely houses and open spaces at Brennan's Place. In particular the hanging baskets and planted beds of nasturtiums were greatly admired and the houses themselves looked well maintained.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The first impressions created by the approach roads cannot be stated strongly enough and Kilworth certainly performs strongly in this category. Pavements have many original features including limestone kerbing and cobbles. The town nameplate on the Cork Road should be repainted as it was looking quite faded. This is an attractive approach with mature trees including copper beech. Stonewalling is a magnificent feature of the town and these are generally well maintained. The new copings to the piers at the town square area were admired. Road surfaces were a little uneven and could be re-tarmacadamed. On the Lismore Road walls either side were admired and a relatively new footpath looked well. There were a few outbreaks of weeds in this location. The town pump had been freshly painted which the adjudicator was delighted to note.

General Impression:

Kilworth is a most attractive centre which has the potential to do extremely well in the competition. It was the adjudicator's first visit to the town and it was found to be very impressive in that it retains much of its original character and many of its original features! Congratulations to all concerned.