

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Kilcar** Ref: **272**  
County: **Donegal** Mark: **226**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **13/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>226</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The beautiful photograph of the village looking east does not really suffice in place of the required map on which you would mark places of importance which should be visited - the photograph does not show the large housing estate or the industrial area. We hope we have not missed anything. It is encouraging to read of your regular meetings and of the co-operation of the local Authority and of FAS.

### **The Built Environment:**

The unique charm of Kilcar rests in its picturesque main main street descending from the church to the bridge. The buildings here, in the traditional style, and many of them residential as well as commercial, are invariably well presented, giving perhaps the loveliest small streetscape in the county. The Hiberno Romanesque-revival church, the school and Halla na Paroiste were well presented on the date of the visit. Of the many well maintained business premisses, the O Cinneide Kilcar House was particularly admired. The handweaving works and shops looked well, and the fairly ugly factory buildings were in the main as well kept as could be desired.

### **Landscaping:**

There is no major landscaping project, except at the large housing estate, which was good; rather, the small areas of colour caught the attention such as the delightful planting at the grotto, the church grounds, new flower boxes and hanging baskets. Grass verges on the approach road from Killybegs were trim. The graveyard was well looked after.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

It seemed that little had been achieved since last year towards the enhancement of the natural environment,

and suggestions made by previous adjudicators not followed up. The neighbourhood of coast, river, woodland and meadow is of course wonderful in itself without doing anything to improve upon nature! but such projects as information signs on flora and fauna and designated signposted walks can prove of great interest in this increasingly urbanised world. Perhaps you are engaged in school projects, which are so desirable for the same reason.

#### **Litter Control:**

Congratulations to those who take part in clean-ups of village and beach, and especially to school children, for a distinct improvement in litter control.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

It is good to read that the committee sells compost bins and that the scheme has been well accepted. A bring bank would be an essential start to waste minimisation. The mark given is an average one for the first year of this category, which will become more and more important in future years.

#### **Tidiness:**

The concrete gate pillars and entrance to the commercial premises next the graveyard could do with improvement, also part of the boundary wall of the graveyard. A part of the approach from Killybegs gives a poor impression because of an unkempt section of roadside and a prominent advertisement for Broadband (which presumably has planning permission). The road to the pier is extremely scruffy, mainly because of inconsistency of developments, but this has not been marked as it is probably outside the village judging area: however, it does give a negative impression and landowners in the area should be alerted. Otherwise, the village proper certainly has a tidy air - it is worth mentioning a commercial premises on a side street up-hill (a map with road names would help to identify such sites) has a forecourt that appeared to have been scrubbed clean!

#### **Residential Areas:**

Most of Kilcar is residential. The houses in the main street are beautifully kept. It was good to see infill housing under construction in a side street, and that many new houses have pitched roofs and dormers in the traditional way. Many new houses also have excellent wooden fences (rather than ugly cement block boundary walls). The main housing estate was well presented, as before.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Surfaces of the main roads were excellent, though less good in the industrial zone. The attractive lamp standards were noted. Stone walls here and there, and especially at the grotto, give an instantly favourable impression, both in the design and the workmanship.

#### **General Impression:**

Kilcar does well on its buildings, residential areas and roads, and this year in its litter control. More thought needs to be given to the wild life and natural amenities category. As you remark on your entry form, the work is a 'continual battle', but the village renewal is succeeding brilliantly and you are certainly winning the battle.