

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kells** Ref: **397**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **229**
Category: **B** Date(s): **30/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	229

Overall Development Approach:

Kells is welcome to the 2006 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission outlining to your achievements to date together with your problems as you see them today and your vision for the future. The adjudicator agrees that the time has come to place more emphasis on your cultural heritage and to develop this rather than align for further housing expansion. The village is located on the banks of Kings river in beautiful countryside; it is a small cross road settlement which is in danger of losing its character due to pressures of development.

The Built Environment:

The overall presentation of your buildings is quite good however do try to get business people, particularly shop owners, to eliminate posters and stickers from their windows and doors as these detract from an otherwise good presentation. The sign for Morris Oil on the garage is enormous and should be removed altogether; if a sign is necessary one of a more appropriate scale at fascia level is suggested. The Hall looks well and the church is charming the school has been recently painted and looks well, also it is now time to landscape its grounds further.

Landscaping:

Landscaping in the square to the roadside of Smiths is beautiful well done. Container plants throughout the village were noted for their colour and profuseness and location. Grass verges along approach roads and entrances are being neatly maintained and mature hedgerows have been noted, no doubt these provide valuable habitat for wildlife.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

We note the location of bat boxes in the cemetery and your plan to feature the flora and fauna at the bridge. It would be a good idea to take your plan a stage further by conducting a wildlife survey, perhaps involving the use of the area in particular school children to enhance the community's enjoyment of what wildlife has to offer. The survey could also be used to protect the wildlife status of the village in the face of proposed future development.

Litter Control:

Litter control is quite good; some was noted at the shop but is not a serious problem. Your weekly litter patrols and your litter awareness activities with the schools is paying dividends it would appear.

Waste Minimisation:

Your plan to circularise residents and business interests regarding the minimisation of waste and regarding the litter loss is an important first step in performance under this heading.

Tidiness:

Your treatment of the old forge is effective, well done. Development sites are a little untidy but this is to be expected. Well done on the cleaning of road signs and the partial removal of service poles.

Residential Areas:

New residential developments are attractive and are being nicely landscaped in the course of construction; Priory Grove has been nicely landscaped, perhaps the corner across from its entrance will be suitably developed also. Infill residential development in the village centre has been noted and admired also. Burgess Court is excellent in its presentation. We note a planning application for 169 new houses and the concern of the committee regarding the expansion of residential areas in the village; hopefully your new residents are becoming involved in the life of the community and in the work of the Tidy Towns particular.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The grass verge leading to the name plate on the Stoneyford entrance should be maintained for at least 20 or 30 metres and the wall on the far side of the road maintained free of its long grass to highlight its beauty; it is acknowledged however that verges inside the name plate are being nicely maintained. Stone walls on approach roads should be revealed to highlight their beauty and eventually refurbished as necessary. Your timber name plates are a nice feature, however some look as though they need refurbishment. Your arched bridges are a beautiful feature. Wirescape in the village is quite bad and we look forward to having these ducted at some stage in the future. On-street car parking is problematic in terms of the overall appearance of the village and circulation throughout, and it is quite bad for a village of your size. We note your work on the partial restoration of footpaths.

General Impression:

We wish you well in the implementation of your vision for the future of Kells, with a greater focus on heritage rather than an expansion of its residential status; the renewal of the built fabric of the village is also a important priority.