

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilfinane** Ref: **277**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **212**
Category: **B** Date(s): **30/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	11
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	212

Overall Development Approach:

Kilfinane is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2006. Thank you for your entry form, accompanying letter and map. It is noted that you receive support from the Social Employment Scheme, and no doubt Limerick County Council are involved with your renewal plans. The lack of community involvement is noted, as is your problems with vandalism. The involvement of some of the youth of the town in your activities may help to counteract this problem.

The Built Environment:

The Church, dominating the landscape, is a fine edifice, set in a mature landscape, and the cemetery was well maintained. Michael Fox Memorial Park, with its attractive commemorative wall sculpture looked well, but the parking area needs resurfacing. Scoil Pól is a modern building set in nice grounds, but the National School needs attention. The Kilfinane Education Centre was most attractively presented amid some very fine coniferous trees, but many of the surrounding buildings need attention. Work had commenced on the derelict site in Market Square area, and on completion this should really enhance this part of the town. The Library building looked well but was closed due to pavement work. Some of the business premises about the town were well presented, including the Old Mill Bar; Healy's; O Céalleaghair; O Seachasaigh and Brian's Hair Salon, but the Old Maple Ballroom needs attention, and the fine town house beside O'Doherty's could be improved greatly with a little attention. Two old vacant buildings caught the eye – Fitzgerald's and McCarthy's Hardware – and it is hoped that when the time comes for their redevelopment that the original features on both premises will be retained. Kilfinane has a very fine streetscape, worth nurturing. It is noted that a village renewal programme is to commence later in the year by the Grotto area of Main Street. Good luck with this project.

Landscaping:

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Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Again this year it is noted that you have no projects planned for a wildlife feature in the town. We would ask you to consider providing a designated wildlife area in the town and perhaps a piece of land could be identified and turned into a wildflower meadow.

Litter Control:

Litter was noted in the car park by Michael Fox Memorial Park, by the litter bin at Scoil Pól, all along Church Road, and also by the bring bank. But litter control was good in the centre of town, so your diligence in this section of the town is paying off. One local lady was observed sweeping up debris all along the roadside by the Sports Ground – well done. There are many litter bins in the town but they vary in style, standard and cleanliness.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a new category for 2006, and your committee needs to study the Race Against Waste booklet which gives information on composting, recycling clothes, Green Schools' initiative, etc. You already have a bring bank – so some waste is being recycled. You may also get some useful information on this from the Environmental Section of Limerick County Council.

Tidiness:

Generally weed control was poor about the town, with weeds noted all along the pavements and roadsides. The parking of the old trailer and old wooden poles in the Michael Fox parking area should be discouraged, as should the dumping of garden refuse by the entrance to the old RIC cottages. It is noted that you are tackling the problem of the derelict sites as part of your village renewal scheme.

Residential Areas:

Many of the residences on the Housing Estates were well presented, as were the thatched cottages in the former RIC scheme. The standard varied in St Ann's Terrace but one dwelling towards the end must be complimented for the manner in which both house and garden were presented. Forest View and the Terrace on Barrack Hill also looked well. But some of the boundary walls on all estates need attention. The new housing development in front of St Ann's is well underway. The town has many fine private dwellings, some as mentioned above with lovely gardens.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The signs on the approach roads to the town were in good condition, but some of the finger post signs to the historical sites need attention. Road surfaces were mainly good, but the road by Straid na Failte needs attention and there are many potholes in the RIC estate. The pavement on the Ballylanders Road is in poor condition. Roadwork and pavement work was underway in the town centre.

General Impression:

Kilfinane is a very busy town with an attractive streetscape worth preserving. You have done much already in tackling the dereliction problems, but there is still work to be done. We wish you success with your village renewal programme and look forward to seeing the fruits of your endeavours.