

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmallock** Ref: **121**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **259**
Category: **C** Date(s): **28/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	259

Overall Development Approach:

Kilmallock is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2006. And thank you for your welcome to the town. The comprehensive 5 Year Plan, detailed map and supporting documents was most professionally prepared and presented. Congratulations to all concerned on winning the Tidiest Town category in the Council's Environmental Awards 2006 and the best improvement in the overall development approach in the Ballyhoura Region Awards. Well done to Colaiste Iosaef on winning the Waste to Art competition for the third year in a row. It is noted that you receive support for your endeavours from many sources, including the Limerick County Council, Ballyhoura Failte, OPW, and the community.

The Built Environment:

The landscape is dominated by St Peter & Paul Church and spire as one approaches the town, and both church and the surrounding grounds were in very good order. The Colasite, with its gardens and playing areas were well presented, as were the other schools in the town. Many of the old stone buildings were admired, including the Community Hall, with its new access ramp, the Courthouse and County Council offices and the Museum. The GAA complex, with its ivy clad walls, is well maintained, as is the Soccer Club and Health Centre. Friars' Gate was getting ready for an art exhibition, and the employees were friendly and helpful. Deebert House and gardens were much admired. The Post Office is a very fine building with many original features and with some maintenance work could be a nominee for a special award in a future competition. Indeed, Sarsfield Street has many fine buildings, with original shop fronts, and owners should be encouraged to retain these features. Are there plans to develop the old Railway buildings mentioned in last year's second adjudication report. The cemetery was in pristine condition, but the outside walls and signs need attention. Most of the business premises are well maintained, but some need refurbishment, and the Bank of Ireland, Fire Station and back of the Teleservices Centre are weather stained. Like many Irish towns, Kilmallock is going through major redevelopment work, including some interesting construction at the back of

Tim Cahill's. Kilmallock, for its size, is fortunate to have some of the finest listed buildings in the country – Dominican Priory; Collegiate Church; John's Castle; Blossom Gate, to name but a few. And the view across the river to the Priory and surrounding meadowland is wonderful. It is noted that you have many plans for improving the town, including coordinated signage; developing a playground in Castlecourt, and are continuing to try to resolve some of the problem areas around Sheares Street, the Bike Shop and the old schoolhouse in Water Street. And have long term plans to restore the town wall and the stone mansion, with the help of the OPW.

Landscaping:

Your committee is commended for encouraging the youth of Kilmallock to get involved with your landscaping endeavours. The raised stone rose beds about the town were very much admired, as were the many types of planters filled with eye catching arrays of trailing petunas. Many of the business premises on Sarsfield Street featured some lovely floral displays, including the Flanagan's, Lynch's, Fitzgerald Electrical, AIB Bank, Harney's, the Texaco garage, and the displays at Riser Physiotherapy and the National Insurance building was excellent. Gortboy garage and adjoining properties also merit mention in this category. The heather, potentilla and hypericum planting on the Charleville road were much admired, as is the area around the Town Pump. At the FCA Hall a major overhaul was underway on the grounds. And perhaps the GAA Club could consider continuing the ivy planting on the other walls. The town has many fine tree plantings and all were maturing well. The landscaping around St John's tower and the Directional Maps was also attractive. Many private dwellings had wonderful gardens, as had some of the houses in the Estates – Millmount and Shear's Avenue – in particular. The tree planting around Radharc na Coille, with the fine stone sculptures, was much admired. The adjudicator was attracted to the Famine Park for a snack lunch, but there were no seats, admired the rose beds (which need weeding). It's a shame that the stone acknowledging your supports of this project had been vandalised. And your plans to plant some red oaks trees by the Coláiste, is noted. Your weekly attention to detail in this category is paying dividends.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Located at the centre of the Ballyhoura Country, and on the bank of the River Loobagh, Kilmallock is set in a natural wildlife area. You also have your wild flower garden and river park and actively encourage the preservation of these habitats. You don't seem to have any specific plans in this area, but should give consideration to developing some other wildlife features, with which the schools may be interested in cooperating.

Litter Control:

Congratulations on your Schools Education Programme, and getting the youth involved in your many campaigns to control litter about the town. Your action in advising by notification, and encouraging as many as possible to take part of the National Spring Clean Week is admirable. On the day of adjudication a sprinkling of litter, including cigarette butts, was noted on Sarsfield Street, and in Riverview and Radharc na Coille, but the standard in this category was mainly good. The litter bins vary in standard and styles, but it noted that you have plans to replace increase the number overall.

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 and the schools Green Flag initiative – and you have many schools in the town. You already have a one of the largest Recycling Centres in the County, which you continue to promote, so there are great opportunities for recycling waste in Kilmallock. You may also get some useful information on this category from the Environmental Section of Limerick County Council.

Tidiness:

The school children's artwork which screens the old buildings on Sarsfield St is very effective. Hedge and verge trimming was completed but the foliage debris needs to be removed in some areas. There are many industries about the town and some of are in need of attention like the tanks at the back of Paul & Vincent; the removal of the broken wooden pallets from the lower section of the Business Park; the storage area for gravel, concrete pipes, etc on the Bruree approach is unsightly, and the entrance area to GVM is very untidy. The gate and fencing at the Protestant Church is rusting and needs painting. It is noted that you are continuing to encourage owners of the abandoned and untidy premises to upgrade these buildings. Allowances have been made for the building debris resulting from all the building work about the town.

Residential Areas:

There are many fine, well maintained, private dwellings, with lovely mature gardens – not forgetting the O'Brien property, on all the approach roads and close to the centre of town. The Riverview Estate, old and new, with its lovely green area and decking by the river bank, looked well, as was Gortboy and Millmount, but

some of the boundary walls need attention. The active participation of the residents of Radharc na Coille and Riverview is admired. The new housing developments of Glengrove and Bellview are of a high standard, and the developer of Bellview is complimented for planting so many fine trees even before the completion of construction work. There are many smaller housing estates, too many to mention individually, but all were presented to quite a high standard, including the green areas. The stone walls, linking many of the residential and other areas about the town were in fine condition.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The signage on all approaches to the town was in fine condition, and it is noted that you are in discussions with an architect to design new entrance signs. Road surfaces were good, but the road by the corner of the Green Road needs attention. The pavements throughout the town were in good condition. Towns sometimes just concentrate on maintaining the main thoroughfare, but Kilmallock's connecting roads and laneways were in good order.

General Impression:

The adjudicator cannot but agree with the sentiment of the second round adjudicator last year, in that Kilmallock has the potential, with more hard work involving all of the community, to win the overall award. It is a very fine town, steeped in history, with an array of fine mediaeval buildings, and is presently going through, like many other Irish towns and villages, a renaissance.