

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killyon-Hill of Down** Ref: **510**
County: **Meath** Mark: **166**
Category: **A** Date(s): **25/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	19
The Built Environment	50	18
Landscaping	50	21
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	13
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	20
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	166

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Killyon Hill of Down to the 2006 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the outline 3 Year Plan. This Plan needs to be expanded a little to show the projects that you will undertake each year, the possible cost if any, and the supporting agencies that may have a role in each project.

Your entry is a very large one in geographical terms – the two areas are about one and a quarter miles apart. Your Tidy Towns Committee of 15 people therefore has to take on the presentation of the area between the two settlements. Another option is to continue to work together but to enter each area as a separate entry assuming that all village names signs are in place etc.

The Built Environment:

Changes to road signage as recommended in 2005 have been actioned and this is most encouraging. The area around the canal bridge was quite well presented and there was much activity on the afternoon of adjudication. Generally this area was well presented but a few recommendations are given elsewhere in this Report. At the Cray premises the long grass and weeds in the wire boundary fencing needs to be removed as it looks quite untidy. The church and grounds were superbly presented once again. However the dead grass on either side of the path to the church itself needs to be removed. There is also dead grass at the base of the low road boundary wall that should be removed. The Famine church urgently needs to find a new use. It would be terrible to see it fall into total disrepair. The low blue boundary walls and pillars here need to be painted again. The new lay-bye with the timberwork is extremely presented and the nearby Community Centre also meets a high standard of presentation.

Landscaping:

The church and school landscaping are the main landscaping project in the area and both looked very well. The half tyres on the canal bridge do not look especially well and it would be much better here to use very narrow timber flower boxes that can be taken down in the winter. The boxes should be painted matt black

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

In many towns and villages this is an aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition where there can be significant potential for development. All towns and villages have the presence of wildlife to some degree. It is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine further the wildlife potential of Killyon Hill of Down, and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly.

If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat survey carried out of the wildlife in the Killyon Hill of Down area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, lakes, canals, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to Killyon Hill of Down.

This need not be an expensive survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person locally who might undertake this task for you. Basically the survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit your area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different time of the year.

Using the results of the wildlife survey your next step should be do draft a straight forward Plan for Killyon Hill of Down to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. For example perhaps there is an old Pond in your area that is disused, but with a little work could be an important area for wildfowl.

It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many Schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get involved.

As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

Litter Control:

On adjudication day litter control was quite good and this is commendable considering the long linear area that you are working. It is great to see that you have participated in The Pride of Place initiative.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a new category in the Tidy Towns Competition introduced in 2006. The purpose of this new category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the community that they support to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Marks can be gained by Killyon Hill of Down for the promotion of best practice. This can include community guidance on methods of reducing waste, segregating litter during clean up events. You could also consider a partnership with local firms and businesses to encourage them to reduce unnecessary waste.

It is great that the school is involved in the Green School project and the adjudicator wishes them well in their future plans. The recycling project does help in waste minimisation in the Killyon Hill of Down area.

Tidiness:

At the canal the wire fencing opposite the timber post and rail fencing should be removed and replaced by a continuation of the existing brown post and rail fencing. The white timber post and rail fencing opposite this across the road has painted barbed wire. This does not look great and should be replaced by timber painted to match the existing timber fence.

Residential Areas:

The scattered houses in Killyon Hill of Down were well presented and many owners have obviously made major efforts. Again this year the property opposite the graveyard at the road junction is superbly presented.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The verges between the two areas were very inconsistently presented. Some areas had been cut perhaps privately while others are badly overgrown. Do remember also that verges will need to be cut on quite a regular basis if you are to achieve a lush green well kept appearance of banks and roadside verges. A tractor and mower will not give the neat well kept appearance that can be achieved by a motor mower. In towards the village the Raharney approach is quite well presented with good verges. Further out the presentation is quite poor.

General Impression:

Your area is an attractive one where the canal plays an important role. With so large an area to work on it is essential that every agency that can possible help you do so and that the community fully supports and helps in your important work for both areas. Good luck with your 1007 projects.