

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Killeevan** Ref: **610**  
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **196**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **29/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	26
Landscaping	50	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	12
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	16
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	23
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>196</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for your entry form and map. The information provided is sparse - it may be that you should be achieving a higher total mark, for example under Wild Life and under Waste Minimisation where the adjudicators need to know the extent of activities that can not be readily seen at the locality. A more detailed map would also help. Most committees use the excellent Rural Places maps printed by the Ordnance Survey, and mark the sites that should be visited on it in pen. It was difficult to see much progress since last year, but it was good to read of your continued association with the church committees and also FAS and the County Council.

### **The Built Environment:**

The picturesque Church of Ireland church in its sylvan setting, complemented by the handsome Roman Catholic church in its well-kept graveyard, are the two most notable buildings; the boundary wall of the latter was in need of painting at the time of the visit (this was mentioned by last year's adjudicator as well). The tower of St Luke's, of which the passer-by on the road may be unaware, is in fact a landmark seen from a distance. Your concern for the gable wall and window of the Abbey is appreciated. The old school is the most prominent civil building at the village centre - it should be freshened up with paint before too long. A pity the unique design of the metalwork on one side of the Rectory gate was obscured by foliage.

### **Landscaping:**

The best genuine landscaping in the village is the entire grounds of the Church of Ireland church. The shrubbery on the bank sloping down to the Clones road from the lane to St Luke's looked well though the grass appeared tired. Strimming had been effectively undertaken in some places though not consistently so. There was a missed opportunity in the small circular bed in the car-park - this area is bleak and needs a colourful feature. Tubs certainly added colour elsewhere.

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

Trees are considered under this heading. The trees at the car-park did not seem to be thriving; perhaps you need advice from a tree specialist as to what will grow best on such an open site. You are right to say that "there is great scope for bird life around St Luke's" - in fact there is great scope throughout the whole neighbourhood, with its wonderful mature trees and hedgerows. What is needed is information to interest and involve the public and create sensitive access to habitats. Most committees erect signposts for walkers and illustrated boards showing the native flora and fauna - you may see one of these at the wild-life amenity area at Drum. You are probably involving schools in wild-life projects, but you make no mention of this in your documentation. The two older graveyards should perhaps be considered under this heading too; there is immense potential for visitor interest in both of them; how old are the yews at St Luke's? - 200 years? more? The visitor would like to know. An inventory of names could be made here: several are famous names. A start could be made by clearing the weeds and brambles on the lane and removing the unsightly post-and-wire fences. The graveyard on the Redeerpark road is probably older, but there is not even an informational plaque. Some of the headstones have the skull-and-crossbones motif seen throughout the Lough Erne basin; the stone-mason's craft is particularly skilled. A visit to Tedavnet might be worth-while to see where a start has been made on research and reinstatement of an ancient graveyard with help from central funds and persistent hard work by the local people. Killeevan could effectively treat its two graveyards as one project.

### **Litter Control:**

This is a very high mark. There has clearly been a concerted effort, and the turn out in such numbers to help with the clean-up as you describe, is highly commended.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

This is an average mark in the first year of this new category - a category that will assume greater importance as time goes on. Your increase in marking next year will depend upon the steps you take over the next nine months. You have left this item blank on the entry-form so we can not know what your outlook is. You will find information in the Tidy Towns book and the County Council will undoubtedly prove to be most co-operative.

### **Tidiness:**

There was inconsistency throughout the village - some areas neatly kept by residents, others not so. Trimming was adequate in some areas, but it is the less adequate that caught the eye; for example, about twenty yards of nettle-infested post-and-wire fencing on the road between the village centre and the RC church created a poor impression. It is essential that all landowners lend a hand to support the Development Group's efforts. Dereliction, however, is the most significant contributor to untidiness, and this will be mentioned under 'Residential' below.

### **Residential Areas:**

Inconsistency is very much the case under this heading too. For example, a fine house with a neat mature hedge and first class wooden paling, and opposite it a vacant house with all the associated untidiness. Occupied houses are kept with pride, but one can not expect pride from the owners of derelict buildings. In villages where there is need for housing some local authorities and developers have rehabilitated old terraces and cottages and have added new infill houses of matching design - rather than building new estates unconnected with the life of the place; but there may not be this demand in Killeevan. You will be aware from old photographs of how the street was originally made up of a continuous run of dwellings on either side; this would be the ideal to return to. The local Authority can impose penalties for dereliction, if this is required.

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

Road surfaces were seen to be good throughout, and very good on the Smithborough road. The carpark was well marked out with bollards. Paving, especially at the RC church, was good. Old stone walls were seen to be well maintained. The 'yield' signs needed painting, as did the post box.

### **General Impression:**

It may be said that Killeevan was well maintained over the past year though significant new initiatives were not noticeable. It may be that greater information on the entry form would lead to a higher mark. There is plenty of potential for imaginative new projects, but these require real dedication and enthusiasm. (You have written how well the local people co-operate in the clean-ups, so help is not lacking.) Dereliction and vacant sites are problems to be vigorously tackled. You have done very well in the control of litter and congratulations are very much in order to the whole community for this.

