

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcormac** Ref: **287**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **223**
Category: **C** Date(s): **07/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	24
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	223

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the comprehensive application form, sketch map and supplemental material in support of your application.

It is good to note that the Committee has engaged with both West Offaly Partnership and indeed Offaly Leader and this has benefited the village judging by the work that has been undertaken to date.

This adjudicator has not been to Kilcormack for some number of years and in that period the town has been undergoing change and in fact ongoing infrastructure work was taking place on adjudication day.

Kilcormack has benefited from good community spirit and has made great strides in the competition since re-entering in 2003.

The Built Environment:

The town was in the throes of major infrastructure works when visited and one only realised the volume of through traffic as major disruption was experienced at a peak times of day.

It is difficult for property owners to keep premises in good condition when you have this volume of traffic, including trucks, generating dust and muck but to their credit most properties were kept well.

Your concerns about dereliction are noted and there were some very fine buildings of architectural merit in a near derelict state.

The fine period residence presently unoccupied on the Cloghan Road looks as if it is going to be replaced judging by the planning notice -maybe I read it wrong!

As regards the overall problem of dereliction the Committee can only try to encourage owners to come into line, as this subject can be very contentious in a small community.

There were a number of very fine premises noted on the day, both the unusual Girls National School on the

road from St Cormacks Park and The Boys National School on the Ballyboy Road were very well presented. The RC Church and Convent in the core area of the town were also in an acceptable condition and the renovation being undertaken on the Garda Station will result in a fine town building.

There were many fine business premises and private residences to be viewed within town.

Your concerns about the square are well founded and you are restricted in what you as a committee can do. The area is rather congested and parking in and around the butchers shop was rather erratic to say the least. Maybe this is a potential project that might fall within the Town and Village renewal programme. It certainly needs an objective professional assessment.

The only other negative was that there are still too many unsuitable or plastic signs to be seen in towns and villages such as Kilcormack.

This is an issue that the Committee needs to assess and take action to encourage a change of mindset among business owners. Easier said than done.

Landscaping:

There was some excellent planting combinations to be viewed all over the town, all of which were maintained to a good standard.

This is very important as there is nothing more unsightly than overgrown and untidy shrub/flower beds.

The excellent but simple planting arrangements at base of wall of the well maintained GAA grounds is a case and point. Well cared for trees complemented by nice and colourful flower beds.

The St Cormack's Park planting arrangement is an excellent piece of green area landscaping

The Riverside Walk is a very fine amenity, nice Failte go Chill Chormaic stone sign and appropriate seating as on enters, but inside area lacked something and it is hard to pinpoint what.

It might be worthwhile consulting the Horticultural Section of Offaly County Council to come and give an overview. The Offaly CC sign "Do not damage lifebuoys—" does not complement the excellent stone sign and should be at least repainted.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There is a green area on the river bank (Cloghan Road) that has a broken seat and notice pole. This could be looked at as a potential location for an additional wildlife project such as the erection of a wild life notice board. It would be complementary to the existing amenity park and one that would be an ideal way to involve all the school children of the town.

Litter Control:

The town is quite busy and has a large population for its actual size therefore litter can be a problem and one has to be aware of possible litter traps.

There was too much litter evident at the Bridge Street area of the town and this could be problematic as it is easily dispatched into the River.

Some bins were a little worse for wear and are not of any use unless cleared regularly.

Your efforts to get the message of litter control is worthwhile and hopefully local people will take it on board.

Waste Minimisation:

Excellent first contribution to this new category and it is good to see one of the younger generation of Kilcormack residents being honoured for her efforts in making people aware of the need for better waste management.

Your encouragement to the business community is also noted.

This should give you the impetus to make further contributions to Waste Minimisation in next year's competition.

Tidiness:

The town is basically a well-maintained town, it has its problems like every where else has.

At the moment there is major disruption due to ongoing works in the centre area and this causes temporary untidiness, but the local community has managed this well.

There are a few areas that need attention; a boundary wall opposite the beautifully maintained St Cormacks Park needs to be repainted as it does not enhance this area. The Ballyboy Road is a bit untidy but if the weed growth was cleared and broken fencing fixed this would be a fine entrance into town.

Area around the service station on Tullamore exit a little cluttered and needs to be tidier.

Overall the standard was quite good and deserves a point extra for managing the disruption to the centre in an effective manner.

Residential Areas:

There were some very fine housing groups to be seen in this category and commendations to the residents of the following for the manner in which they presented homesteads; The Terrace of Houses on the left as one enters from Birr where some beautiful gardens and brightly coloured frontages were admired.

Pairc Naomh Chormaic is a credit to the residents and the green area and landscaping employed would be the envy of many other towns and villages.

The Mountrath Road Terrace and Mooney's Terrace also deserve credit for the way the areas are kept.

It is hoped that some newer developments planned will be completed in a manner suitable to the fabric of the town.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Outside of the main street being disrupted, the standard of entrances was very good.

On the Birr entrance the landscaping at the excellent GAA Grounds (nice to see so many boys and girls out hurling on a bright summer morning) gave an appealing look.

The Tullamore entrance was equally as good.

The Cloghan Road was very acceptable and the Ballyboy Road with some minor improvements will be at a similar standard.

General Impression:

The Committee are intent on ensuring that Kilcormac makes progress in the competition.

A good entry and presentation and one that augurs well for the future.

The adjudicator will re visit at a later date when all the infrastructural work is complete.

Keep up the momentum