

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killeigh** Ref: **596**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **241**
Category: **A** Date(s): **04/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	241

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your well-documented application form, resume of work carried out and planned and map of village, which was extremely helpful in identifying places of interest in this very pleasant village of Killeigh. The committee of 15 is quite large for such a small place and it is noted that attendances are not what they should be.

I would suggest that you have one main executive of 4/5 and individual sub groups that are responsible for specific tasks, this might address the perceived apathy that is coming through in your application.

The interaction with Offaly County Council and most importantly the local community is important as this partnership approach pays off in the long run.

Your comments re inconsistency of reporting is noted and this adjudicator will endeavour to be as fair and objective as possible.

The Built Environment:

It has been a few years since this adjudicator visited Killeigh and in that time the standard of presentation of buildings has improved very much.

New or renovated buildings such as the attractive stone faced house near Gorman's fits into the fabric of the Village very well and the owner is to be commended for his or hers contribution to tasteful design.

The Post Office is simple but effectively maintained and is an impressive building, as are a number of other similar Georgian private residences that gives Killeigh its own architectural uniqueness associated landed estate villages.

The main village area was also helped by a beautiful village green with amenity feature set off by good road surface.

The School was well maintained and the Catholic Church was acceptable though the boundary wall caps

could be painted.

The GAA club is making good efforts to bring its facility up to a high standard. The Church Of Ireland, in such an idyllic and peaceful surrounding, was well looked after but the tower bell looks a bit worse for wear.

The Cemetery was in top class condition and credit to those who maintain it

Gorman's and Doyle's premises were in an acceptable condition, but it is neigh impossible now days to see retail or drinking establishments front areas free from obtrusive barrels or gas cylinders .

Landscaping:

The Village green with its lush trees, shrubs, stone beds, resting area and notice board depicting the monastic history would be the envy of most villages in the country.

The beds were well tended and had been forked quite recently, which prevented overgrowth and choking of shrubs.

The maintenance of this green alone takes time and effort, the local community should be grateful to the committee for ensuring that such a focal point of the village looks so well.

The planting arrangement near school is effective as it breaks up that whole area.

Some of the white tubs at various points in the village need to be planted with annuals, maybe this will be done within the next few weeks.

There were also a number of very attractive private gardens including one at the beautifully appointed Abbey Farm near the Church Of Ireland

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

In last year report mention was made of a plan to develop a wild life area within the school grounds. The adjudicator did not notice or may have missed this but it is probably part of the Green School project.

The school children should be encouraged to build upon this and develop more worthwhile ideas that promote nature conservation in the area.

The number of havens that support wildlife of various forms in the area are numerous but these are not being exploited enough.

It is disappointing to note that there are no new projects planned under this category, but if support is not forthcoming little else can be done.

Litter Control:

Litter control over all was good but your concerns are noted, bins were not over filled on adjudication day. Keep the slogan "Bring your litter with you" to the forefront and this will eventually deter visitors from leaving it after them

The main problem seems to be at the recycling centre, where there was as much additional refuse and cardboard on the ground as was in the main refuse bins.

The Environmental section should monitor this, as it will get out of hand if not curbed.

Waste Minimisation:

This new category offers towns villages the opportunity to gain points for new initiatives and also to contribute to the concept of better waste management.

It is good to note that the school is actively involved in this process but the greater community can benefit as well.

The publicati, included in the original application package, gives ideas on how to best to develop relevant projects.

Tidiness:

There are a number of new houses just built at back of green and the access to them is very untidy.

This whole needs to be cleared of decayed weed growth and gerally tidied up.

Some tatty wire fencing was noted a a few locations around the village and owners should be asked to re fence of tak it down.

It is as you say dependent very much on the good will of people but do keep up the encouragement.

Residential Areas:

The standard in this category was very good with a few exceptions, which is to be expected given that everybody in the community may not be enthusiastic about Tidy Towns.

Encouragement by committee members is the key to getting everyone on side and aligned to the tidy towns

effort.

Mention has already been made of the quality of homesteads in the village proper. Hillview Crescent residents are to be commended for the overall presentation of houses and immediate areas.

The communal area here was of a high standard and it was good to see a new stone nameplate in place.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main approach roads were for the most part well-presented and inviting with surfaces good.

The Mount Bolus entrance is now enhanced by a new footpath which serves a practical purpose, as it allows residents of the Hillview to traverse without fear of being knocked down.

The link road by Abbey Farm is very tranquil and an ideal place to relax – might be an idea to place an additional garden seat at some point along here.

General Impression:

Killeigh is a very pleasant village on the road between Tullamore and Portlaoise, and even though traffic can be sometimes heavy the village has a relaxed atmosphere.

The Committee is to be commended for its attention to issues that need to be addressed and resolved and Killeigh has benefited from this approach.

Keep up the good work and in time more people will come on board to offer much needed assistance.