

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kinnitty** Ref: **294**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **236**
Category: **B** Date(s): **06/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	236

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed application form, sketch map that identified places of relevance within the village and photographic evidence of work undertaken this year.

Your partnerships with the County Council and other agencies seems to be bearing good results as the village of Kinnitty was looking quite well on adjudication day. Regarding your comment requesting "a more detailed results" as per your application it does not specify in what format you require this information.

The adjudicator's role is to summarise and assess activities in 10 different categories and in no more than a 2 to 3 page document and unfortunately this does not allow for a very detailed report.

It is hoped that this year's report will go in some way to doing justice to Kinnitty recognizing the effort made by the community as a whole.

The Built Environment:

The core area of the village is appealing as well as expansive and helped by an excellent road surface. This area is made complete by the attractive and well-maintained green with ideal link fencing and stonewall with nameplate.

The only negative, and it is probably a hobby horse of mine, is the myriad of signs (10 or 11) on one pole right beside a telegraph pole that accommodates the crossing of wires.

The RC Church is very impressive and in an imposing position within the village, the grounds and boundary wall are exemplary and credit is due to the persons responsible for its well-being.

Both the Garda Station and the building that houses the Glendine Bistro are buildings of real architectural merit, there are a few more of similar standard including one that has fallen into disrepair.

These are buildings one encounters a lot in Laois and Offaly and are associated with local landed Estates. Giltraps has a unique shop front and it is one's wish that it will always retain the original features that give it

that uniqueness. It will be entered as a candidate in the best shop front category award. The Church of Ireland in the honour of St Finian is very well maintained and its grounds are in splendid condition. The addition of a wheel chair access is enlightened thinking. The historical depiction of the Kinnity stone made interesting reading and one to return to at a later and more leisurely time. Peavoy's is an old style shop of much character, but would the owners dispense with the orange plastic sign it's a reminder of days when we were not too worried the character of our buildings. The school and fine Community Centre were both well maintained and full marks also the GAA Club for presenting a very fine facility out the Castle Road. Many private residences were admired and the Portico in the centre of the village stands out as a well kept house in a prime position. It is good to note that the fine premises with the name De Cleir over the door is being refurbished – a plea to the new owners do try to retain its originality.

Landscaping:

The green houses some very practical planting combinations, beautiful rose bed, low maintenance shrubs, trees that will mature to give seclusion and set off with nice street lighting. The pump feature encased in stone surrounds has a colourful bedding arrangement to show it off. The Sliabh Bloom Bar has colourful displays both around the building and in front stone bed with sign for the said establishment to the forefront. On the negative side there were a number of benches that were in need of repair and repainting, maybe this could be a priority for next year's work programme.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The management of the wild flower garden in the Mausoleum in the Church of Ireland grounds is very much in line with the ethos of conservation of natural amenities. The committee should consider going a step further and seek advice from a local wildlife enthusiast on the advantages of developing a wild life project that would be worthwhile to both the local community and the many visitors to the Sliabh Bloom area. This would be the ideal platform to get the local school children involved.

Litter Control:

Despite your concerted efforts to get the message of good litter control the following was observed during inspection. There was some litter very evident at the base of the hedgerow on the link road that leads to Kilcormack after the 50km sign. There was a bag of litter dispatched at the base of the bin, which was over full, on the Roscrea road. The bench at this spot is broken and needs to be repainted and the hedge cut back.

Waste Minimisation:

The recycling facility at the local centre is a big bonus for the community and it was well managed and very tidy, so well done to all. Encouraging the residents to contribute to better waste management is a very positive approach and it will prove effective in time. In order to build on this the Committee should consult the Race Against Waste Publication, that was included with the application package, to see what additional relevant projects could be developed in conjunction with other parish organisations.

Tidiness:

The standard of tidiness was acceptable but there was a weed growth very evident on the kerbside in front of the Church of Ireland. Allowances are made for the fact that this is a busy time for local farmers and hay baling contractors, so you will have some residue from these activities on roadsides. There were some untidy side areas adjacent to a few unoccupied buildings, the Committee are aware of these and may be in a position to influence owners to tidy them up. The new footpath on Barrack Street was noted and it does make a difference in practical terms.

Residential Areas:

Both housing estates Ballincur and St Finians were in very good condition and were complementary in terms of upkeep to the village town houses.

The provision of bins at these areas was noted and will help to keep the green area tidy and free of litter.

The private residences in the village have been commented upon favourably in a previous section.

There are a number of newer houses on the outskirts that are contributing to the good standards attained in this category.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On the Kilcormack link road the verges need to be trimmed back a little prior to the 50km sign.

The Birr entrance is up to good standard, the surface is good and the extension of the footpath allows one to traverse further out.

The remaining roads are well presented and verges cut and tidy, except for the messy area near new footpath as one comes in from Church of Ireland.

General Impression:

There has been good improvement in the appearance of Kinnity since this adjudicator last visited some years back.

This is due in no small measure to the efforts of a very progressive Committee, one appreciates that you feel a bit frustrated that Kinnity is not reaching its full potential.

There are a number of areas that need improvement to justify a high points increase, which incidentally is very hard to come by given the strict adjudication guidelines.

The Committee has succeeded in getting all sections of the local community involved in the Tidy Towns cause and this will guarantee you further success in the competition.

Please give update of work plan actions and timescale for next years entry.

On a final note it will be interesting to see the results of the enhancement programme undertaken this year.

I can guarantee you that it will have a very positive knock on effect and you may get new support for your committee. Keep up the good work.