

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Knock** Ref: **78**
County: **Clare** Mark: **227**
Category: **A** Date(s): **27/06/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	227

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed application form, sketch map of both Knock and Kilmurry McMahon and the supplementary photographic material that outlines work done to date.

It is rather confusing that the entry is in the name of both Knock and Kilmurry McMahon as they are two separate areas over 2.5 miles apart.

It is good to note that you have good relationships with the County Council, FAS and of course your local community.

The work being done by FAS workers was evident on the day.

And your concerns about the D195 Metabruce wreck are well founded and it is hoped that a resolution will be reached soon.

The Built Environment:

The funding received under the Village and Urban Renewal Scheme will be beneficial to the upkeep of the core area in Knock and the greater area that extends to Kilmurry McMahon.

The standard of presentation was quite good in this category and Morrissey's was undergoing a transformation of colour on the day.

The Fisher Mans Hut was also admired for the simplicity of colour – there must be a Cork connection as the flag was flying boldly out doing the Clare one.

The Village of Knock has only a few business premises and it looks like one these is unoccupied.

The new pier path and safety railing was noted, and as was stated earlier it is hoped that issue of the wreck will be solved so that this whole section of the village can be further developed.

Landscaping:

There was a flurry of landscaping and planting taking pace on the morning of adjudication, the stone beds on the Kilmurry McMahon entrance to Knock were being refreshed with shrubs and hardy perennials. It is very note worthy that you actually cultivate your own seedlings and the horticultural tunnels were visited by the adjudicator on the day. The seating on the pier area was admired, this area will be further enhanced when you have your black oak maritime feature in place.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Measures to encourage the preservation of wildlife are very much in keeping with what is recommended. The retention of the furze bushes, not so many seen in present times, to encourage wildlife preservation was well thought out. It may be worthwhile to consider putting an information board at the Marine Area that would depict the fauna and flora and the maritime connections with the area.

Litter Control:

The standard was good in both Knock and Kilmurry McMahon and it is to the credit of the Committee that the community are engaging in voluntary pick-ups. It is also noted in your application that you have applied to Clare CC for additional bins.- these are needed especially during the summer period. One stone bin in Knock was closed and looked like it was not being used.

Waste Minimisation:

You're proposed actions within this new category are very much in the spirit of better waste management as outlined in the Race Against Waste publication included in the application package. Well done to all involved and it will lead to more similar actions being undertaken by the community as a whole.

Tidiness:

The wreck of the Metabruce does give an untidy look to a small but focal section of Knock Village, this will hopefully be resolved to your satisfaction in the near future. There are a number of other areas that stand out due to the fact that the Village is so small and visible. It is incumbent on locals to keep back areas tidy and free from clutter. There was an area adjacent to a lovely cottage that seemed to be burned and is quite untidy looking as On the positive side the new signs provided by the Council are a great addition to the village, as they were clear and visible. The kerbsides and verges were in a very acceptable condition.

Residential Areas:

The Village of Knock is very small and most homesteads were presented to a high standard. There are a number of new houses that have been and are in the process being constructed and these will fit into the Village structure in time. It is hoped that the Village will not be subjected to major developments in the years ahead as this would spoil its uniqueness.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All entries in to both "Villages" were presented very well. As stated elsewhere the quality of landscaping and planting was much admired, it makes Knock in particular very attractive as one journeys either to the Shannon Ferry or indeed the scenic route from Ennis to Kilrush and West Clare.

General Impression:

The Committee has to be commended for what has been achieved in Knock Kilmurry McMahon over the last number of years.

If it wasn't for your encouragement, cajoling and indeed lobbying not forgetting the actual physical work, these improvements would not have happened.
We wish you well in the future.