

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killerrig** Ref: **1437**
County: **Carlow** Mark: **216**
Category: **A** Date(s): **31/08/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	216

Overall Development Approach:

Killerrig was entered as part of the drive by SuperValu to work with communities to approve the environmental standards of their areas through participation in the National TidyTowns Competition. Areas were entered on the basis that they fall within the catchment area of the nearest SuperValu store and this 'baseline assessment' is intended to provide a basis on which progress could be made over the coming years through partnership with residents, businesses and local agencies. As such it should not be interpreted as a critique of the area but rather an opportunity for everybody to work together to make their hometown a better place to work, live and visit. As part of SuperValu's strategic approach to sustainable development in the area, a nominal mark has been given to reflect this. Further marks will be awarded in future years where more tangible TidyTowns structures are developed and local environmental plans prepared and implemented.

The Built Environment:

The village Church is still the village centrepiece. It looks well with the granite walls bounding it. The cemetery is an appropriate tribute to those who once inhabited the area. Beautifully maintained. The school and Community Centre also look very well. Are we in Grange or Killerrig? Certainly the Ramada is in Killerrig. Its entrance has that stately look of an entrance to a mansion. The hotel and club house complex inside look well even if the design is quite foreign to its surroundings. The granite walls throughout the village create a prosperous atmosphere.

Landscaping:

There are many examples of fine landscaping throughout the village. The estates and holiday lodges look well and more will be done as these areas bed in over a period of time. A lovely bed at the entrance to the car park. That area could do with more summer colour but access must not be interfered with. The entrance to

the Ramada is also enhanced by the landscaping.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Hedges, trees and walls abound. Wildlife must be plentiful. You might outline in your submission what sort of habitats there are and what you can do to create wildlife amenities.

Litter Control:

It is disappointing that there would be any litter in a place so beautiful but there is some. In your submission next year outline the measures being taken to eliminate litter entirely. Engagement with the school could be helpful in the regard. Regular clean ups are also most effective.

Waste Minimisation:

Without details of ongoing community projects, it was difficult to assess the extent of progress being made under this category and I would look forward to seeing whether progress has in fact been made on future assessments. However taking into account the existing council facilities and SuperValu's own commitment in this area, I believe a nominal mark is appropriate for this year. There are however plenty of ways in which local communities can assist in tackling this growing problem, such as promoting best practice in local businesses and schools, encouraging household composting through local workshops and lobbying for access to appropriate recycling facilities. How this has been achieved in other areas, and indeed many other useful tips, is contained in the Race Against Waste community booklet available from the Tidy Towns Unit in the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Tidiness:

The majestic granite walls that abound contribute to the tidy feeling in Killerrig. The absence of weeds on kerbs also helps. There is one black spot in the centre of the village and this is a pity. The high level of maintenance in the cemetery further helps to give a tidy appearance to the village.

Residential Areas:

On the one hand there are the stand alone houses and then there are the estates. Both styles contribute to the beauty of Killerrig. Private homes are beautifully decked in colour. The estate beside the Church is well landscaped though further colour in the communal areas would add to the picture. Many of the houses are light up with summer colour. Lovely. The holiday lodges also contribute to the village. The granite boundary wall is in keeping with the wall at the estate. This estate is well landscaped. The playground seems to be a fine amenity for residents of the holiday homes.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The home owners along the main road provide valuable manicured landscaping on the approach roads to Killerrig. Where there are no home owners the road verges grow wild. This is a pity because more care by Carlow County Council would signal the arrival of a village and would create a positive impression in the visitor.

General Impression:

Whether it be Killerrig or Grange, the village is being transformed by the arrival of the golf resort. One hopes that this venture will benefit the village and will not change the character of the area.