

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Killeshandra** Ref: **53**  
County: **Cavan** Mark: **210**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **26/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	28
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>210</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

You were asked in last year's report to produce a work programme and this adjudicator was delighted to see that you had produced the Town Enhancement Work Programme for this year's competition! The associated map was most useful on the day. You would appear to have a good working relationship with the local Heritage Officer, businesses and households, which was very impressive. The high level of support you receive from them is good. Work with the Area Engineer, Litter Control Officer and Town and Village Renewal Programme are important and useful. The links you have forged with the local heritage group and local wildlife expert are also to your credit. Research on the Institute Hall sounds interesting.

### **The Built Environment:**

Public buildings of the town looked well cared for on the day. The Church of Ireland, its school and associated Arthur Martin Memorial Hall were admired, as were the well kept Garda Station and Resource Centre. The Catholic Church and school looked well, with beautifully maintained grounds. The Post Office was very fresh, as was the Credit Union. The Ulster Bank appeared to be doing work to its signage – possibly the new logo. Lakelands Dairy Co-Operative Society sported some magnificent window boxes. The shops and commercial premises were a little inconsistent in appearance. Some shopfronts such as Gala, O'Dowd's and Gilsenans were admired, but there were still a few with inappropriate and out of scale plastic signage which should be removed and replaced with ones of a more sympathetic timber variety. Collette's Pub had colourful displays of hanging baskets. The auctioneers and garage at the crossroads appears a little neglected in its prominent position. There are a number of fine buildings on Main Street that are sadly uncared for, such as those at the top of the town adjacent to Gilsenans and that beside the Estuary petrol station, and would benefit greatly from a sensitive conservation plan. Could you consult with the local Conservation Officer in regard to them? The Fire Station was having construction work done to it on the day.

### **Landscaping:**

Incidental landscaped spaces throughout were greatly admired with their colourful displays of nasturtiums, sweetpea etc. That by the Resource Centre looked marvellous. The gravelled landscaped area at the Cavan entrance to the town looked magnificent with associated seating area and permanent planting and flowers. The area at the entrance to the Town Lake also looked well, as did the planting opposite the car park. The car park area itself would benefit from a judicious landscaping scheme. What plans are afoot at the Old Burial Ground? Perhaps some landscaping could be considered at the Dairy, as this rather dominates the approach from Ballyconnell.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

This is an area of the competition which you would appear to have approached with relish. The strong links you have formed with a local expert and Birdwatch Ireland will be very beneficial to your work in this category of the competition. The Dawn Chorus and Midnight Bat Walks were very interesting initiatives. The scheme to encourage the young people of the town to log migrant bird sightings online is also one which captures the imagination! The Killeshandra Wetlands Awareness Programme also sounds very interesting, especially the Wetlands Workshop.

### **Litter Control:**

The standard on the day was reasonably good. A very light scattering was evident along main streets. There was a lot of litter evident to the weedy area beside the petrol station, however. Weekly clean-ups are paying off, but vigilance is ever-necessary. Involvement in the Adopt a Road Programme is a good initiative.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The segregation of materials gathered during clean ups is reassuring. The Bring Banks, unfortunately, despite the extra bins, showed evidence of dumping on the day, which was also the case during adjudication last year. This is a problem that should be tackled - vigilance is the key, or else a more frequent collection. You would appear to have a good working relationship with your local Environmental Officer and are aware of these issues and this is commendable. It is now time to ensure that you spread the word to local businesses, schools and households, to ensure they have the same level of awareness. Consult with your Environmental Officer in this regard, in order to see how this can best be done.

### **Tidiness:**

There was a very weedy area beside the Estuary petrol station on the Cavan side of the village which looked most unfortunate. Weeds were also apparent at the graveyard wall, and a few at the kerbside leading in the Cavan Road. The telephone box looked very neglected. Don't forget outbuildings when considering overall presentation. Some tin roofed sheds at the car park area were in need of attention on the day and should be repainted in their traditional red colour. Building materials should be removed once work is complete. Some was evident at the Town Lake, but perhaps this was due to proposed work in this location?

### **Residential Areas:**

The single storey houses behind the Resource Centre looked very well with some attractive and subtle landscaping. Lakeview Self Catering accommodation was well presented. Houses on the Ballyconnell approach were a little inconsistent in presentation, although one or two had some attractive gardens, including one with nasturtiums. New houses at the Town Lake were admired.

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The Ballyconnell approach was well maintained but the road surface was rough. That from Cavan was well maintained. The Milltown approach needed attention to its signage. The nameplate sign was grubby and the dangerous bend sign was rather flaky. Yard areas and car parks need attention also, that beside Harvest Moon was rather weedy.

### **General Impression:**

It was a pleasure to revisit Killeshandra after a number of years. The town continues to expand and develop and this will hopefully be in a controlled way, thanks to the vigilance of the residents!