

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Kingscourt** Ref: **54**  
County: **Cavan** Mark: **178**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **18/06/2007**

|                                | Maximum<br>Mark | Mark<br>Awarded 2007 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach   | 50              | 27                   |
| The Built Environment          | 50              | 20                   |
| Landscaping                    | 50              | 24                   |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50              | 13                   |
| Litter Control                 | 50              | 24                   |
| Waste Minimisation             | 20              | 6                    |
| Tidiness                       | 30              | 11                   |
| Residential Areas              | 40              | 25                   |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 50              | 22                   |
| General Impression             | 10              | 6                    |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>400</b>      | <b>178</b>           |

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Kingscourt Community Development Council is welcome to the 2007 competition. The town would certainly seem to have a large population for the size of its core area! Kingscourt has expanded rapidly since this adjudicator last visited and was certainly very busy on the day! You would appear to have a large membership, which is good and a successful working relationships with local schools, Cavan County Council, the Credit Union and local shops. A lot of construction and civil engineering work was underway on the day, as you had suggested in your application.

### **The Built Environment:**

It will be interesting to see the outcome of re-design of the traffic and road layouts on completion of these works. Do ensure that they are in keeping with the unique character of the town. The adjudicator was disappointed to note the sale as "development opportunity" of an attractive vernacular building on the main street opposite the Church of Ireland. It's retention as a unique example of a traditional building would be most important in order to retain a sense of what makes Kingscourt unique! The Veterinary Clinic on the Carrickmacross Road should be repainted before next year's competition – its signage was a little faded. Dun an Ri House Hotel looked fine, as did the Post Office. Christmas lights on a number of buildings appeared somewhat unseasonal. St Joseph's National School and grounds were well maintained. The unusual multi coloured panelled building beside the Kingspan Research Centre on the Dublin Road was admired. The Church of Ireland and associated grounds was well maintained. Blake's, Murtagh and Gartlans are all attractive shopfronts.

### **Landscaping:**

The development of the People's Park is looked forward to. It will prove a great asset to the town and its residents. If not completed for next year's competition, perhaps you could include drawings of your proposals

in this regard. The landscaped area to the front of the Kingspan premises on the Carrickmacross Road looked well with grassy verges, trees and planted tubs and hanging baskets. Christmas lights were in evidence also in this location. The window boxes to railings along the main street had yet to mature. The roundabouts appeared to have been disregarded until construction work is complete. Could some creeper be considered at the pre-cast concrete wall of the concrete works? New banking had been planted further along this road, closer to the town centre. The trees marching up the centre of the Main Street give it an elegant appearance. The old village pump on the Dublin Road should be repainted.

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

The adjudicator was disappointed to note that you had not managed to further a wildlife project for this year's competition. As mentioned by last year's adjudicator, this is an area in the competition that would benefit from further development. It would also seem that your report in 2005 suggested a number of possible projects that you might consider developing. Have you looked at any of these? The proposed entrance area and walkways at the People's Park are an interesting potential project and the incorporation of a nature trail should be considered. Perhaps the local schoolchildren and scout groups could be enlisted to help?

#### **Litter Control:**

Inter- Housing Estates Competition are a good idea, and should pay dividends in time. We were pleased to hear of the youth participation in litter pick ups. Unfortunately, the town was quite littered on adjudication day - both along approach roads and along the main streets of the town centre. Bottles and cans made a bad impression on the Carrickmacross Road.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

The proposed upgrading of the recycling area is a good idea. This aspect of the competition is really about how you inform people of the recycling options open to them and how best to manage their waste. This would include dialogue with schools, businesses and local residents. Ideas are composting workshops, waste segregation workshops, distributing leaflets and maps indicating the location of bring banks etc. The Environment Officer in Cavan County Council could give you some ideas in this regard.

#### **Tidiness:**

The tin roofs to some sheds on the Carrickmacross Road needed attention on the day and should be repainted in their traditional red before next year's competition. The large number of trucks trundling through the town makes it difficult to maintain and result in it getting quite grubby. A rough area in front of the Health Centre was quite weedy, around a weedy concrete tub. Discourage flyposting as it can give roadsides a cluttered and tatty appearance.

#### **Residential Areas:**

This was the only section of the application form that appeared to be completed with any great enthusiasm! You obviously enjoy the work associated with it and, hopefully, when the ongoing roadworks are complete, you can apply a similar level of enthusiasm to the other aspects of the competition! The row of cottages beside Gartlan's was greatly admired. Cabra School, obviously now a private residence, looked very fresh. An attractive stone and brick house was admired nearby. Mount St Joseph's was an attractively maintained estate with grassy banks to the front. Cabra View sported new trees and grassy banks. The gardens and houses on the Dublin Road were admired.

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

Ongoing roadworks are causing major disruption in the town centre. The Carrickmacross Road appeared quite neglected on the day. The Dublin Road was maintained to a higher standard. Road signage was very grubby and, presumably won't be attended to until works are completed. The road surface of the Carrickmacross Road was rather rough.

#### **General Impression:**

It was a pleasure to revisit Kingscourt after a number of years. Unfortunately a lot of construction work was taking place on the day, giving it a rather neglected appearance. It has the potential, with careful guidance, to do well in the competition.