

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilkee** Ref: **72**
County: **Clare** Mark: **270**
Category: **C** Date(s): **20/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	47
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	270

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your very comprehensive and detailed application, which included a resume of actions undertaken for the year and planned for the future. Your involvement with Clare County Council, Kilkee Town Council and Fas and Kilkee Civil Trust has helped in producing evenness in the presentation of your entry in this year's competition. The committee has to be congratulated on their achievements to date, particularly the on-going co-operation of various development agencies and organisations.

The Built Environment:

Each town has its own uniqueness and heritage that sets it apart from its neighbours. Kilkee has its own history that makes it unique. The town has had a major influx of new residents in the last number of years and this has resulted in major infrastructural changes for Kilkee and the outlining area. There are many new residential and commercial developments, both within the core and on the outskirts. However, the one concern the adjudicator would voice is that too much of this type of "progress" may suffocate the uniqueness of this very historic seaside town. Commercial premises which did impress on the day of adjudication include: Kilkee Bay Hotel, Halpin's Hotel, Stella Maris Hotel, Lynch's, O'Connell Street, Kilkee Thalassotherapy Centre, O'Neachtain's, Hickey's Pub and Hickey's B&B. These were all admired for the way in which they were presented and the proprietors are to be complemented for their upkeep and maintenance. Public buildings which did not impress on the day include the Allied Irish Bank. The stone work was dirty and the railing and gates need to be repaired. Also included in this was the Bank of Ireland, which needs repainting. The library was also noted as needing a total painting makeover. St. Senan's G.A.A was also looking worst of ware on adjudication day. These issues will have to be addressed if Kilkee is to progress in the National Tidy Town's Competition. The Golf Course, Club House, Garda Station and Schools were all in good condition. Well done to those involved in their upkeep. The planned project for the Church was noted and works were well underway on the day of adjudication. Plans look very exciting and the adjudicator looks forward to returning

and viewing the end results.

Landscaping:

The tree planting and flower arrangements were very much admired in Merton Square. The seating area was also admired for its obvious upkeep and attention to detail. Planting on approach roads were impressive, especially the Kilrush Road.

However, as mentioned in last year's report, the core of the town did lack colour, hanging baskets and other forms of planters. This problem needs to be addressed. Hanging baskets which were noted were not maintained. The planting arrangement outside Scoil Realt na Mhara was noted and impressed the adjudicator. Overall, the planting arrangements were of a good standard.

It is noted of your projects in this area to bring Kilkee to an even higher standard in this category.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

A good pro-active approach has been taken in this category. The committee is to be congratulated for endeavouring to promote wildlife protection and conservation. The committee need to give ongoing advice and encouragement to the school children so as to stir their creativity, which will result them appreciating the wonderful wildlife that surrounds them. The Wildlife Notice Boards need to be updated, as recommended in last year's report. The redesign and upgrade of the series would be recommended.

Litter Control:

On one of the very few nice weekends experienced this summer, Kilkee was a very busy place, on the day of adjudication with numerous visitors transcending on the town. The centre was virtually litter-free. Also, the beach was litter-free which, again, was very impressive. Well done to those involved for its upkeep. However, some areas were better than others. One black spot, in particular, was the seating area by the Church where there were two full bags of rubbish.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a reasonably new area which has to be addressed under the National Tidy Towns Competition. The Race Against Waste is a campaign in raising awareness of better waste management practices. It is incumbent on us all to embrace this in light of our past record among the wider European community. Well done to the pupils and teachers of Scoil Realt na Mhara on achieving the Green Flag project award, which was on view on the day of adjudication. Congratulations on this great achievement. The Bring Bank facility was of a good standard of presentation. Lisdeen Recycling centre, on the Kilrush road was visited by the adjudicator. However, access was not available, what a wonderful facility on your doorstep.

Tidiness:

As previously mentioned, the area by the church was untidy. However, your project plans for this area have been noted. This will not affect your marking in this category as the pending result will be impressive. The core of the town was neat and tidy overall. However, some commercial premises will need to be mindful of general presentation e.g. painting etc. The promenade looked very well and credit is due to those involved in its presentation.

Residential Areas:

Merton Square was very much admired. Also Pairc Mhuire, St. Patrick's Terrace, Geraldine Place and Gratten Street were all areas, which caught the adjudicator's eye. Well done to their residents for their commitment to Kilkee and the Tidy Towns Competition.

Some of the private houses on the strand-line could do with boundary walls being replaced or repaired. Please continue with your efforts regarding short-term residents and owners of holiday complexes to contribute to the National Tidy Towns effort.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces throughout the town were of a good standard. However, the strand-line needs major upgrading and has become very uneven. Hopefully, this will be rectified in the very near future. Overall, entry roads to Kilkee were of an acceptable standard.

General Impression:

Your efforts to address and resolve ongoing problems are noted and it is hoped that there will be good news on a couple of fronts between here and next year. Keep up the excellent work and continued good fortune in the National Tidy Towns Competition in the year ahead.

