

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Kilmihil** Ref: **75**  
County: **Clare** Mark: **243**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **20/08/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>243</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for your entry and details of work on hand. It is many years since this adjudicator visited Kilmihil and you have had many changes since then. And yet in many cases you have not moved. As a village you have a very wide area under adjudication and the many approach roads, side streets, open spaces make a demanding challenge for progress. Much of previous years work are continuing to benefit you and in particular the tree planting of some years back illustrate the value of sustained landscaping. Indeed, such tree planting should prompt you to continue this programme, especially on the principal streets as they will give permanent benefit to your rating. The first impression is one of great colour, which is most commendable in a year that was not kind to floral display.

### **The Built Environment:**

Public buildings in Kilmihil are excellent and project a caring attitude. The library was once again excellently presented and the church had a rich display landscaping and hanging baskets. We liked the ideal of flying he flags which are colourful and welcoming. Like many villages and most towns you are experiencing an exceptional amount of residential building on almost every approach. Some of these developments need to finish to a more acceptable standard and the houses opposite the Ceard Scoil need to finish the boundary areas on this approach. Well done to the Fergus Credit Union for such a high standard of presentation.

### **Landscaping:**

This is your strong point and the standard and extend to landscaping is most praiseworthy. The effort at St. Michael's Place reflect great community endeavour and the high standard of landscaping here is excellent. However, in general we would urge more sustainable landscaping to complement the flower displays. We were delighted to witness the flying of the Green Flag at the national school: a green flag is an adjudicator's delight and we commend all concerned with this achievement. The school mural was much admired and the

many murals at the GAA complex is excellent as this adjudicator recall this area not looking so well on his last visit.

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

Your planting programme should reflect your concern and interest in wildlife and you have potential to raise your marks in this category. Perhaps the school students could embark on a survey that would list the popular wildlife of the area and this may lead to the erection of some display boards which would be of interest to locals and visitors alike.

#### **Litter Control:**

Well done on your litter control performance. As mentioned last year the village did not appear to have a litter problem and litter bins were adequate in number and well positioned. This reflects well on the community and on those who use the village for shopping etc.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Because of the Green Flag status achieved by the national school you have scored well in this new category. We did not notice a bring bank unit: perhaps we missed it.

#### **Tidiness:**

You have problems in this area emanating from a variety of reasons. You have a high degree of dereliction in and around the village and looking over the village from the national school one can observe the many rusty corrugated roofs, dereliction and general untidiness of the village. Also many yards in and around the village are very untidy and need attention.

#### **Residential Areas:**

The individual effort in this category is very good and many householders have gone to great trouble to present their premises to a high and colourful degree. The approach from Ennis is excellent and many have superb gardens, so well done. St. Michael's Place already mentioned has set a standard for others to pursue.

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

While the Ennis approach is good some road surface is below standard and needs attention. You should contact the local authority in an effort to get the road structure standard raised. Also the overhead wires in and around the village should be undergrounded. This is common now in most villages. Back and side entrances now form a core part of the adjudication system and owners should be encouraged to present their premises to a high standard, especially those visible from the roadway. Our loudest praise this year goes to the excellent presentation of the Stations of the Cross garden. This is an inspiring development and has been admired for many years by this adjudicator, indeed its layout, Celtic script text, freshly painted images, well kept grass area all combine to make it the best in the region: árd mholadh.

#### **General Impression:**

It was a delight to visit Kilmihill again after so many years and witness the progress of recent times. You now need to firm up your improvement plan and tackle the black spots outlined in this and other reports and shortly you will be in the high league of Tidy Towns.