

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilrush** Ref: **77**

County: **Clare** Mark: **290**

Category: **D** Date(s): **18/07/2007**
09/08/2007

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	49
The Built Environment	50	40
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	29
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	19
Tidiness	30	6
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	290

Overall Development Approach:

Kilrush is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the comprehensive submission complete with equally excellent map of the town and its greater environment. The submission which was expertly compiled succeeded in encompassing all aspects of your committee's activities. Interaction was also undertaken with various statutory bodies, relevant agencies and most importantly local community organisations and business people. Your committee has been extremely active in trying to mobilise people to contribute to your efforts.

The Built Environment:

Kilrush has progressed hugely over the last number of years and this was the first occasion in some years since the adjudicator visited the town and its environs. Much infrastructural improvement, the majority in keeping with the original streetscape has taken place. This has had a very positive effect as the town which has taken on a new look. Kilrush was extremely busy on the day of adjudication with large numbers of locals and visitors alike. The town has a wonderful built environment and many attractive shop fronts, the following took the adjudicators eye – Considines on Frances St., P O'Loughlin and J.M Grogan on Henry Street, also O'Duighirs. These were all very well presented and the owners are to be complimented on their upkeep and maintenance. The Harbour Restaurant is a wonderful example of modern architecture, proving that the concept of blending old with new works. Public buildings in the town, The Garda Station, Schools, the Post Office with its disabled access were all presented to a very high standard. One cannot leave this section without mentioning the wonderful and impressive Kilrush Town Hall. The building and courtyard area were in pristine condition.

Landscaping:

The standard observed here was excellent, adding an amount of colour and vibrancy to the town overall. The visual effect of colourful hanging baskets, window boxes, numerous potted planting and roadside planting was exceptional. Congratulations on a job well done.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The planting undertaken throughout the town is of benefit to the wildlife in the area. The marina holds the possibility of developing other wildlife projects. The interesting Cappa Pier area and the Millennium Bridge Amenity are all suitable for wildlife conservation. The Heritage Council will help you to identify wildlife pockets in the area.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent on the day of adjudication. This is a testament to the great work of the committee in advancing the message of good litter control. Keep up the great effort.

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 poor record among the wider European Community. Refer to the Race Against Waste publication included with the original application package. The Recycling Centre (Bring Bank) in the Plouzane Car Park was in a very poor condition. Evidence of bottles, boxes, rubbish bags were left by the recycling centre. This situation needs to be addressed.

Tidiness:

There is still a major amount of construction work going on in Kilrush and in the environs. This leads to messy site areas and developers should be encouraged to keep these as tidy as possible. Outside of the above there is goodwill on the part of the local community to contribute by keeping areas immediate to their properties in good condition and free from litter and weed growth.

Residential Areas:

Overall private residences in the town were presented to a very good standard. Credit is due to residents who take it upon themselves to look after properties so well.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All main entrances were all very inviting, especially the approach roads from Kilkee and Lahinch. Wonderful planted area and neatly cut grass. Again well done to all concerned.

General Impression:

Kilrush has made great strides in the National Tidy Towns Competition to date. Despite its major transformation over the last number of years it retains its rural/maritime character. We look forward to even further progress in the Competition.

Second Round Adjudication:

Kilrush town is a unique example in Ireland of early 19th century urban planning and this is noted through its designation as a Heritage Town. The town was wonderfully presented on the day of adjudication and it was great to see the town making usage of its wonderful waterside setting. The marina and surrounding are well maintained and easily accessible from the town. The water area out the front of the sailing school is clean and the hut feature in the centre of the water is a nice addition. The picnic tables on the bank of this section of water provide a nice place for people to relax and enjoy the views. The Quay Mills development was well underway on the day of adjudication. It is great to see this development taking place and last years Tidy Towns report had made note that a development here would be beneficial to the area. The proposed completed project appears to have taken great effort to preserve this very historic 19th century industrial site whilst opening up the area to residential and businesses through apartments and offices and the general community through its civic centre. The development also unites the town to the waterfront. In general the shop fronts were well painted and presented and true to their own historical architecture. The old Dance Hall is currently up for sale and it is hoped that then new owners will renovate the building as at the moment it is a bit run down. A block of land that is presumed to be an old car wash is in a very untidy condition and requires attention, perhaps even just a fence being erected to block the view. Streets and paths were well maintained and there was little evidence of litter. Plantings on the entry to town were colourful and housed in stone walls. The Garda station was immaculately presented. This adjudicator wishes you well with your new developments and we look forward to seeing the completed outcome in future submissions.

