

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Kilbrittain** Ref: **136**  
County: **Cork (South)** Mark: **263**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **11/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	42
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>263</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for the completed entry form together with the most helpful map also provided and the copy of your three year plan together with details of your village renewal submission. Both these documents indicate that you are taking a professional and serious approach to the task before you; this is also reflected in the increased marks you have gained this year.

The ethos, the essential character of the village is strengthened rather than diminished by the new houses being built. Faced with stone some feature latticed windows with an attractive chevron like moulding over. The extensive use of stone walls are a special feature as are the delightfully vibrant colours which are used in many locations.

The village park is certainly added to by the use of the terracotta red hard stand. Please ensure that this area has a suitable soak away to avoid standing water accumulating in the corners. We liked especially the historic signage at the village park. The details of the townlands and their history was very good, we note the village is twined with Sagra in Spain and the signs for this were well presented.

### **The Built Environment:**

The painted walls of the cemetery were very attractive. Perhaps you should also include the capping stones as well for best effect. The stone wall between the junction and the cemetery was excellent. Ivy Lodge looked well presented while the views of the castle, imposing in its hill top location, was somewhat marred by the less than impressive presentation of the original entrance. Could the committee and others consider the rebuilding of the right hand side structure to more appropriately frame this imposing view? The Amber Bar was very well presented but the Beamish sign is now well past its sale-by-date. Both public buildings, the Garda station and the Post Office were very well presented. Overall the vibrant use of colours through out this street was a delight.

### **Landscaping:**

The extensive planting of trees on the main street is a real joy. As they mature and grow pay some attention to the possibility that they may obscure some of the commercial premises. The Sli Na Slainte is an excellent innovation. They have been found to be even more used where it is possible to provide a circular route. At the picnic area the timber bridge with views of the delightful stone arch bridge is excellent as is the overall picnic area. Sadly the rhododendron plant is being attacked by a smothering parasite weed. The village park is a delight and equally appealing is the track way to the waterfall. Note that the notice of the walk at the old entrance to Kilbrittain castle is currently obscured by low tree branches. It would be difficult to understate the splendid contribution made by many individual's private gardens, hanging baskets and window boxes, the planters on the approach road were pleasant but where possible ground planting is to be preferred.

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

The extensive area of the forest walk offers many opportunities to develop a wildlife sanctuary. We liked especially the bird name plate at the picnic area with details of widgeon, teal, mallard and others. This may need attention over the next year as it is beginning to fade. The small grotto and accompanying memorial garden beside it also offers opportunity for the development of a bird friendly location. Within the school, where possible the provision of a bird table and or a wildlife area ought to be considered. Discuss the matter with the local wildlife ranger attached to the Office of Public Works.

### **Litter Control:**

The improved design of litter bins is to be welcomed as it will prevent the unwanted dumping of household rubbish. Litter management on the day of adjudication was good but the whole area was not completely free of disfiguring litter but thankfully amounts were very small.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The main purpose here is to ensure that all the section of the community play their part in reducing as far as possible the amount of material being hauled into landfill sites. This is as much a public relations task as well as a physical one. The presentation of the recycling bins was neat and it certainly is being well used. Your intention to talk to the schools about the three pronged approach of reduce, reuse and recycle is to be applauded and your efforts here are wished success.

### **Tidiness:**

The absence of weeds was an every present, positive element in the good presentation of your centre. Sizeable commercial concerns notable Allen Vanguard was exceptional, the premises themselves were freshly painted and they are in the process of constructing a splendid stone wall frontage. The signs at the junction of the village, near the cemetery for the equestrian centre and others facilities and location do need to be washed. The Dower House is currently poorly presented and needs attention. The area opposite the parish hall would benefit from similar attention.

### **Residential Areas:**

The centre has a agreeable supply of well presented buildings and this are being added to by the extent of new house construction currently in progress. There are many splendid individual houses on each of the approach roads, the houses at the health centre were most attractive, featuring strong vibrant even courageous colouring which give an exciting overall impression. Splendid house on the Bandon road, stone faced and round terracotta colouring which was well set off by its splendid garden.

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

Please use the presentation of the village nameplate together with the speed limit signs to help create a clear cut, division between the town and the surrounding, rural countryside. Many of your signs are obscured by encroaching foliage or require simply to be washed. The canopy of tree branches as one approaches the village from both sides is delightful. The display of farm machinery was attractive while the presentation of the verges was good without being in anyway inappropriate to a rural setting. Road surfaces especially on the road leading to the castle was decayed. Of special merit was a sign identifying and explaining the various landmarks in the immediate area.

### **General Impression:**

Kilbrittain is a village with an interesting past which is being well presented. The present community are adding to the visual impact and attractiveness of their centre. All are to be congratulated for their efforts and

encouraged to continue their upward movement in the tidy towns programme.