

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmore West** Ref: **1339**
County: **Dublin (City)** Mark: **181**
Category: **F** Date(s): **21/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	20
Landscaping	50	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	20
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	20
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	400	181

Overall Development Approach:

Kilmore West was entered as part of the drive by SuperValu to work with communities to approve the environmental standards of their areas through participation in the National TidyTowns Competition. Areas were entered on the basis that they fall within the catchment area of the nearest SuperValu store and this 'baseline assessment' is intended to provide a basis on which progress could be made over the coming years through partnership with residents, businesses and local agencies. As such it should not be interpreted as a critique of the area but rather an opportunity for everybody to work together to make their hometown a better place to work, live and visit. As part of SuperValu's strategic approach to sustainable development in the area, a nominal mark has been given to reflect this. Further marks will be awarded in future years where more tangible TidyTowns structures are developed and local environmental plans prepared and implemented.

The Built Environment:

Like many suburbs it is difficult for the visitor to immediately locate a distinctive heart or 'town centre' to the Kilmore area, where one might perhaps expect to find some commercial or civic buildings. This is of course largely a product of the history of the area's development but much could still be done to create a focus which would indicate one is entering a distinct and unique area of Dublin. This would be a very worthwhile project that could be developed in partnership with Dublin City Council over the coming years. At things stand, it was difficult for the adjudicator to accurately know where the area began and ended, so forgive me if some mistakes were made. In TidyTowns this is normally resolved by the TidyTowns group submitting a map with their entry form and if the community gets behind this new TidyTowns effort, this could be considered for next year. The most prominent building in the vicinity appeared to be the Northside Shopping centre along the Oscar Traynor Road, although this could probably also apply to Coolock. Nonetheless using this as a starting point, I was able to generally assess the area, particularly focussing on the Cromcastle Road and immediate environs. I must start by saying that the shopping centre has made a real effort with a tree planting

programme that helps to soften its appearance somewhat. The health centre, a vital community facility, also has lots of trees but perhaps could be livened up a bit with a new colour scheme.

Landscaping:

At present, opportunities for exciting new landscape projects have not been taken throughout the area, despite the abundance of green space. Most these areas are of tightly mown grass and a few maple or lime trees struggling in the corner which creates a cold and concrete feel which I am sure most residents would like improved. The school (Cromcastle green) for instance does not have a single tree standing despite having a huge amount of space. It is suggested that a newly formed TidyTown group should prioritise this aspect of TidyTown by developing a landscape plan in partnership with the City Council and other interested parties.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The Santry river runs through Kilmore and heron were seen to be fishing on the day. This may come as a surprise as the river is completely hidden from view. Rabbits were grazing in the field on the industrial estate side of the river. There are large amount of open space in Kilmore. As mentioned above, there is great potential for some fine landscaping and of course this would also have benefits for wildlife. For instance some of the open spaces could be turned over to a wildlife meadow with long grass. Paths could be cut through it to allow walkers and children to experience it. A small information panel would inform people and the margins would be cut to give an appearance of tidyness.

Litter Control:

In general the whole area appeared relatively litter free on the day of adjudication. Considering the size of the area and the amount of through traffic, this is a fantastic achievement. Well done to all those responsible. Unfortunately, the all too frequent sight throughout Ireland of a shopping trolley in the river was evident on the day as well. Further marks could be gained in future years under this category if details of ongoing community activities were supplied to the adjudicator.

Waste Minimisation:

Without details of ongoing community projects, it was difficult to assess the extent of progress being made under this category and I would look forward to seeing whether progress has in fact been made on future assessments. However taking into account the existing council facilities and SuperValu's own commitment in this area, I believe a nominal mark is appropriate for this year. There are however plenty of ways in which local communities can assist in tackling this growing problem, such as promoting best practice in local businesses and schools, encouraging household composting through local workshops and lobbying for access to appropriate recycling facilities. How this has been achieved in other areas, and indeed many other useful tips, is contained in the Race Against Waste community booklet available from the TidyTown Unit in the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Tidiness:

Generally speaking the area is tidy and uncluttered although graffiti is a problem as elsewhere and can be seen in many areas. The link between graffiti and anti-social activity has been realised for a long time and steps should be taken with owners of premises and the city council to remove this as quickly as possible. A nicer living environment would result for everyone. Of course, this is a major problem in all urban areas and Kilmore was in no way the worst affected - but progress can be made on this.

Residential Areas:

I am delighted to report that Cromcastle had lovely birch trees planted- much nicer than the usual maple or lime you see in other areas which are alien to the natural Irish landscape. The houses all look very well, with some very impressive gardens. This displays a high degree of pride of place which, if it were harnessed into a vigorous TidyTown effort would impact positively on the area as a whole.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As stated above, there is very little in the Kilmore area to really identify itself. So some welcome signs would easily address this. The standard of road surfaces and general maintenance appeared very good.

General Impression:

Kilmore West is an area which may not automatically think of itself as a traditional TidyTown entrant. Quite the contrary! It has the same potential as other participating urban areas to utilise participation in a targeted fashion and rally people to the cause and make substantial progress. I sincerely hope the community and local businesses take the opportunity offered to come on board next year. Best of luck to everyone in their endeavours!

