

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kill O' the Grange**

Ref: **1333**

County: **Dublin (Dun
Laoghaire-Rathdown)**

Mark: **192**

Category: **D**

Date(s): **20/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	27
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	23
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	192

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Kill O'The Grange to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition. The participation of your area is important to the competition. This relatively small area has industrial, educational and residential elements to life in the Kill O'The Grange community. It is recommended that the first thing that the new Committee might do is to agree on the boundaries within which you will work for Tidy Towns.

Normally this is about 1 km from the entry centre but in your area it will be necessary for your Committee to research the official boundaries of Kill O'The Grange and work within these. The supporting documentation for this might then be submitted with your 2008 entry. It is suggested that at an early date that your Tidy Towns Committee considers the preparation of a simple 3 Year Tidy Towns Action Plan for Kill O'The Grange that would detail year by year the projects that you wish to undertake for Tidy Towns. When preparing the Plan it would be helpful to talk to any local organisations or agencies that may have an interest in the Competition.

The Built Environment:

The built environment in Kill O'The Grange has a long history and Kill Abbey is understood to date from the 11th century. The Blackrock Education Centre and the IADT properties have a central location in Kill O'The Grange. The presentation here was found to be really excellent and the mature well maintained landscaped area reflects great credit on the people involved. Not too far away the Holy Family Parish building was well presented also and the Bakers premises at the road junction caught the eye because of the good colour scheme used here and the associated landscaping. Other prominent buildings include Bathroom World, Skoda and the Fire Station all of which are making a contribution to the built environment. The Dun Laoghaire Golf Course that runs into the Kill O'The Grange area has thankfully restricted over-development in this area. The Ashgrove Industrial Estate area set back from the main road impressed.

Landscaping:

Some of the main buildings in Kill O'The Grange area are well landscaped and especially the4 Blackrock Education Centre and the IADT property. The quality of presentation here is so good that it provides a park like atmosphere for the visitor. The roundabout at the Kill Avenue / Glenageary Road looked quite untidy and abandoned in landscaping terms. There is good potential here to landscape this circular area and make it a local highlight. If you are considering developing new landscaped areas do keep the issue of on-going maintenance in mind. Ideally you should consider year-round planting that will look well at any time of the year.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Marks can be awarded under this section of the Tidy Towns Competition for research and promotion of local wildlife and this is a project that the new Tidy Towns Committee might like to consider. If the Blackrock Education Centre and IADT landscaped areas are open to the public then this may be a good area to consider from a wildlife development point of view. It is suggested that the committee talk to those involved at these two centres to check out the access situation.

Litter Control:

Litter was noted in the area of the Sallynoggin and Glenageary Road Upper roundabout and in various areas along Kill Avenue. It is one of the problems that the committee will have to discuss.

Waste Minimisation:

This is a new category in the Tidy Towns Competition first introduced in 2006. The purpose of this new category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Marks can be gained by Kill O'The Grange for the promotion of best practice. This can include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean up events. The organising of a Workshop on waste minimisation in your area is another initiative that you might consider. This could be held on a waste minimisation community awareness day as part of a series of local initiatives. Your local school or schools should also be involved with their own waste minimisation projects. You could also consider a partnership with local firms and businesses in Kill O'The Grange to encourage them to reduce unnecessary waste. In regard to waste minimisation it is important to remember that quite small actions can sometimes have a significant waste reduction impact. If you do not already have a Bring Bank Centre or if you have one that is not yet properly signposted from the town centre then such initiatives could gain additional marks for your centre in 2008.

Tidiness:

A second problem is the issue of graffiti noted in a number of areas especially on walls and on small steel roadside units. It is suggested that the new Tidy Towns Committee meets the Local Authority to discuss the graffiti and litter issues with them.

Residential Areas:

The following recommendations are offered by the adjudicator who suggests that the Tidy Towns Committee bring these points to the attention of all estates in Kill O'The Grange.

- Road boundary walls will probably need to be painted twice each year especially on busy roads.
- Gable end walls though sometimes difficult to paint should be painted when the rest of the house is being painted.
- Timber fencing will require treatment at least twice per year.
- All estates should be encouraged to provide entrance name signs and directional signage within the estate.
- Green open space grass areas will need to be cut frequently if a quality presentation is to be achieved. Remember that grass will probably have to be cut back from the top of kerbing by hand. The provision of a few well chosen trees can often transform an open space.
- Areas to the back of estates can sometimes become dumping areas for cut grass and other materials.
- Simple landscaping at individual houses can often be very effective if the proper trees and shrubs are planted.

- By their nature estates can sometimes have litter control problems and this must be addressed by each individual estate in the town.

It is suggested that your committee might like to consider the possibility of running a Tidy Estates Competition involving the estates in the Kill O'The Grange area. It is likely that you will be able to find a local sponsor or sponsors who would be prepared to fund the prize fund. The prizes should ideally be in the form of vouchers for estate maintenance equipment or for landscaping. The modern apartment block fits well with its site along Kill Avenue.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The main roads in the area looked reasonably well on adjudication and the long concrete walls on Glenageary Road Upper looked neat and tidy and appeared to be graffiti free. In any centre issues that need to be monitored include the condition of roadside grass verges and fencing / walls.

General Impression:

The adjudicator would like to wish Kill O'The Grange well in their work for Tidy Town s and wishes them well in the futures.