

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcock** Ref: **748**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **209**
Category: **D** Date(s): **18/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	21
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	400	209

Overall Development Approach:

Kilcock is a handsome town with an interesting street pattern which gives rise to a sense of intimacy in the village centre. Being located on the canal provides wonderful recreation amenity opportunities; the view of the town square coming in the Dunboyne Road is potentially pleasing except for the poor wire scape in the village centre, likewise the view of the new bridge coming in the Maynooth Road represents visual amenity also. Welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition and thank you for your submission and fine plan, we wish you well in its implementation.

The Built Environment:

This is Kilcock's weakest point in the competition as there are many buildings that are either vacant or derelict which brings down the appearance of the whole town. However, you are aware of these and are working hard to overcome this problem. The churches and the school and its grounds looked very neat and the AIB premises, which is an important focal point, enjoyed an excellent presentation. Gregory's Tavern also looked well as did the Credit Union building. We look forward to appropriate redevelopment to the Corscadden building now that it has been sold; Fields Supermarket appears to be undergoing some redevelopment. Heritage buildings are nicely presented.

Landscaping:

Well done on the colourful flower displays in containers in the village centre. The roundabout on the entrance to Kilcock from the Naas Road was admired also and The Fair Green is beautifully landscaped, hopefully the service pole here will be removed in the not too distant future. The rowan trees in Highfield were in berry and added a welcome dash of colour. Well done on the proposed work for the Millennium Jubilee Garden.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The grass banks along the canal were being nicely maintained to the outer edge whilst having a display of wild flowers to the inside edge, which gives a charming effect. Well done on the presence of duck on the canal also; further seating and perhaps a wildlife information panel might be provided. We wish you every success in acquiring funding to undertake the proposed habitat survey and the further development of a Sli na Slainte route along the canal and back to the town. The proposed development of the car parking area at the Fair Green for amenity is an excellent initiative and hopefully you will achieve the desired outcome. The G.A.A. sports grounds are neatly presented together with the clubhouse.

Litter Control:

Litter control was excellent on the day of adjudication which only two exceptions; some was noted at the Brian Byrne car sales showroom and some in the Highfield housing estate. Well done on your participation in the Annual Spring Clean and your twice weekly litter picks. Your litter survey will no doubt help to eliminate litter entirely from the village, well done also on encouraging local residents associations to litter pick in their own area.

Waste Minimisation:

Congratulations to the students of the National School, which has acquired its Green Flag. We wish you every success in the identification of an appropriate site for a recycling facility in Kilcock. It is good to note the segregation of household waste, well done on this, and good luck to Scoil Dara Secondary School for their Green Flag endeavours. It is good to note that you have secured a large number of compostors for residents interested in composting. We wish you every success in your liaison with local businesses.

Tidiness:

A number of untidy curtilage areas to commercial premises with poor enclosure to the roadside boundary were noted on the N4 and a vacant rubble filled weedy site in the centre with wire and post fencing was noted also. We appreciate your efforts in this regard and wish you every success in overcoming the problem posed by derelict buildings. Wire scape throughout the village but particularly in the square is visually obtrusive and its ducting will enhance the townscape of Kilcock substantially. Residential developments are nicely presented overall and green stretches of roadside areas to residential properties along the N4 were admired; the Sycamores housing estate has a wonderful stand of mature trees presumably sycamores; Pinewood Lawns looks well also with its neatly maintained roadside areas to boundary walls, green open spaces and stands of mature trees. Infill housing in the town centre looks well as do your handsome period dwellings particularly along Connaught Street. Other estates which were admired include the Courtyard, Royal Meadows, and the Village Green.

Residential Areas:

Your heritage name plates are attractive features, however one is in need of a little refurbishment; your heritage bilingual street name plates were admired also. Some stretches of road and footpath surface are good, however quite a substantial area are in need of resurfacing and refurbishment of kerbs. The high wall along New Road could be cleaned, car parking areas are generally well maintained including the one at the railway station, however we note your plans for this area.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Kilcock is full of contradictions; it is a fine heritage town enjoying a good location and some handsome new developments including Shaw Bridge. However, there are many old buildings which are in need of redevelopment and ugly wire scape in the town centre; the town is undergoing a transition period and no doubt its presentation will improve over the next few years with the implementation of your plan. Thank you for your continued participation.

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