

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcullen** Ref: **371**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **251**
Category: **D** Date(s): **24/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	43
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	28
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	13
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	20
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	251

Overall Development Approach:

Kilcullen is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included your excellent Guide to Liffeside walks in Kilcullen and your action plan for 2006-2007, both of which facilitated adjudication. Kilcullen enjoys an enviable location on the banks of the River Liffey which facilitates recreational amenity opportunities for the community; its location on the N78 ensures quite a lot of through traffic. The rise and fall of its streets is an attractive feature and the Sli na Slainte walk is no doubt conducive to having a full appreciation of both the built environment of the town and its amenities. Well done on your partnership approach with Kildare County Council and the local schools.

The Built Environment:

The Town Hall, Heritage Centre, and the Credit Union are attractive contemporary buildings which enhance the townscape. The Community Hall together with its Pitch & Putt amenity is a fine development also. Scoil Bhríde was admired particularly in relation to its grounds. The replacement of the convent walls with railings facilitating a view of the grounds here in the centre of the town is an excellent initiative which will add to the visual amenity value of Kilcullen town centre. A number of business premises could be better presented; the Dave Clancy Floral Designs enjoy a good overall presentation with its simple lines and lack of window and door posters. The Garda Station looks well.

Landscaping:

Stands of mature trees fronted by neat hedgerow and well maintained grass verges are an excellent introduction to Kilcullen at its southern entrance. St John's Wort were in full bloom at a number of locations around the town; container flower displays could be planted more profusely, the actual container should not be that visible; Enfo produce a leaflet on container planting which has good guidelines. Well done on the removal

of fallen/ dead/ diseased trees in the Riverside Park together with the replanting of the Athy Road affected by pipe laying.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The enclosed leaflet "A Guide to Liffeside Walks in Kilcullen" is an excellent initiative and facilitates an understanding of the flora of your lovely town, its social heritage and the Liffey and its banks. Your recreation amenity facilities such as the Pitch & Putt and playing fields are nicely presented also

Litter Control:

Litter control was good overall but some litter was noted in the small car park at the bridge and trapped in the doorway of the Credit Union premises; more was noted on the northern entrance to the town. Well done on the organization of litter patrols together with your negotiations with the council to restore the street sweeping service. We wish you every success with your poster campaign to raise awareness; be sure to send on a copy of the winning poster for next year. No doubt litter is segregated for recycling.

Waste Minimisation:

Your composting awareness night is an excellent initiative together with the provision of compost bins to the community at wholesale cost price. Congratulations to the primary school children for their hard work towards Green Flag Status and their involvement in litter control. Congratulations also to the secondary school in relation to the Green Flag Programme. At some stage in the future, you might consider undertaking a waste audit to ascertain the volume of waste generated by the community and devise strategies to minimize this.

Tidiness:

Well done on the regular clearing of walls, curbs etc of weeds and of the sweeping of streets with a blower to remove grit etc. we wish you every success in the eventual elimination of graffiti which is a problem experienced by almost every town or village in the competition these days. A number of sites awaiting development are a little untidy and potholes feature also.

Residential Areas:

It is good to note that all estates are active in the maintenance of their own areas and that an awards night is organized to encourage and support activities. A number of residential developments on the Naas Road feature really good landscaping together with old and new boundary railings. It appears that most developments are being landscaped in conjunction with work and the landscaping is completed with completion of construction work. Remind people of the necessity to maintain their roadside boundary walls and grass areas outside of these to a good standard. Hopefully all new residents are welcome to the life of the town and to the Tidy Towns initiative in particular.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The overall presentation of road and footpath surfaces are quite good, notwithstanding that a certain amount of work is still outstanding. The church car park is in need of resurfacing. The Liffey Bridge with its flagpoles and lighting looks wonderful. Nameplates marking entrances to the town look well, however the one on the Brackenstown approach is in need of refurbishment. The regular maintenance of all approach roads together with grass cutting along verges makes entrances to Kilcullen look really good.

General Impression:

The overall impression of Kilcullen is favourable, the town looks best on its approach roads and entrances with its neatly maintained grass verges, mature trees and hedgerow; the Liffey Bridge is probably the best feature of the town centre; the shop front presentation could be improved in a number of instances.