

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Kildangan** Ref: **163**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **241**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/06/2007**

|                                | Maximum<br>Mark | Mark<br>Awarded 2007 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Overall Development Approach   | 50              | 32                   |
| The Built Environment          | 50              | 31                   |
| Landscaping                    | 50              | 28                   |
| Wildlife and Natural Amenities | 50              | 30                   |
| Litter Control                 | 50              | 32                   |
| Waste Minimisation             | 20              | 6                    |
| Tidiness                       | 30              | 18                   |
| Residential Areas              | 40              | 28                   |
| Roads, Streets and Back Areas  | 50              | 30                   |
| General Impression             | 10              | 6                    |
| <b>TOTAL MARK</b>              | <b>400</b>      | <b>241</b>           |

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Kildangan is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your excellent submission which includes your planned work programme, good maps and excellent 'before and after' photographs, a lot of work obviously went into the preparation for this year's application. The village is located on a busy thoroughfare, the R417 Athy/Monasterevin Road and so suffers from a lot of through traffic which made it difficult to adjudicate; the difficulty of engaging in Tidy Towns work is appreciated at such a busy destination. It is good to note the excellent community support and the open meetings held several times a year. Well done also on your local garden competition, door to door fliers and church newsletter, the school principal will be an excellent liaison on the committee between the Tidy Towns committee and the school.

### **The Built Environment:**

The school and its grounds are neatly presented however the boundary wall could be improved. The church and its grounds look well also and the curtilage area of the Emo garage is nicely surfaced and landscaped. The hall appears to have been recently painted. We wish you well in resolving your problems under this heading namely the railway bridge wall and road and the completion of the school project.

### **Landscaping:**

A characteristic feature of Kildangan is its stretches of mature hedgerow backed by splendid mature trees and fronted by neat grassed grass verges along most approach roads. Housing estates are beautifully landscaped also. The church grounds add a splendid appearance to the overall appearance of the village and must look well when floodlit at night. In future landscaping plans try to choose species which are native to the area as this will be supportive of wildlife. We wish you well in the development of new estates and their completion.

**Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

It is a pleasure to note the existence of a Wildlife and Game Reserve area which has been established by residents. You rightly identify the undisturbed wildlife habitat along the railway line. The results of your bird count might be published either on an interpretative panel or on a brochure in order to heighten local awareness; the same applies to other fauna. It is good to note the school involvement under this heading. The entrance and boundary of the playing fields are visually impressive and add a well cared for appearance to Kildangan.

**Litter Control:**

Some traffic litter but not very much was noted on the day of adjudication. Well done on the regular monitoring of public areas by your local community employment project. Commendations are due also to school children regarding litter control and it is good to note that residential estates take responsibility for litter and tidiness in their own area. For the future the mobile trolley initiative sounds interesting. Do keep us up to date with your success or otherwise in this project.

**Waste Minimisation:**

Kildangan is favoured by the proximity of the new Civic Amenity Facility for waste disposal which is located in Athy and for the recycling points within a three mile radius. No doubt the AES Blue Bin monthly collection of waste from households makes an important contribution also under this heading. Commendations are due to the school authorities and pupils for the organisation of a green composting unit together with a disposal unit for batteries. Don't forget that the overall goal under this heading is to reduce the amount of waste generated; with this in mind perhaps a survey of current waste levels could be undertaken with a view to appropriate reduction.

**Tidiness:**

We appreciate that a lot of the current untidiness in Kildangan is due to the fact that the village is in effect a work in progress given the number of planning applications that are under consideration, no doubt the derelict premises on the Athy Road will be redeveloped or refurbished in due course given Kildare County Council's interest in this property. Well done on the power washing and general attention to weed growth along curbs. We wish you well in your application for grant aid for additional litter bins.

**Residential Areas:**

Your Best Kept Garden competition appears to be a great success and makes a significant impact on the excellent overall appearance of Kildangan. The free draw for the garden centre vouchers is no doubt a good motivator for the display of flowers in window boxes, hanging baskets etc. All the new residential developments are presented to the highest standard in respect of general maintenance and landscaping. Your plans to involve new residents in the Tidy Towns and ensure that new estates maintain this high standard is noteworthy.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The bridge is charming feature of Kildangan. The adjudicator wonders if it is floodlit at night. Don't lose heart with the disruption which is bound to accompany the laying of the proposed waste water outfall pipe from Kildare to the borough which will take a direct route through the village, the disruption will pass and this initiative will possibly pay dividends to road surfaces and overhead cabling etc within the village including footpaths. A bench on the Athy Road plus the nameplate is in need of refurbishment.

**General Impression:**

The overall appearance of Kildangan is excellent and deserves a handsome increase in marks; we look forward to the finished product by the end of this decade.