

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildare** Ref: **100**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **201**
Category: **E** Date(s): **16/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	20
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	201

Overall Development Approach:

Kildare is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission which included your planned work program 2007- 2010 together with your Heritage Trail and Sli na Slainte book, "The Hundred Acres". Kildare is blessed with a wealth of heritage buildings, attractive streetscapes and town layout which gives it considerable potential for success in the Tidy Towns Competition. Well done on your partnership approach with various bodies including business interests and with the local schools and well done also on the publication of "The Hundred Acres". The location of maps at several sites together with finger post signs facilitate a good understanding of Kildare town

The Built Environment:

Both the Church and Convent (St Brigid's) are impressive buildings and have an important role to play in the townscape. Schools and their grounds are neatly presented also. The Kildare Village Outlet Shopping is an attractive contemporary development ve and well located. The overall presentation of shop fronts is quite good however there are still too many plastic fascia signs in the town which are quite dated; shop owners should be made aware of the detrimental effect of the thoughtless positioning of posters in their doors and windows which can detract From an otherwise fine presentation. It is good to note from your plan that an audit of signage together with a discussion of findings with Kildare County Council has been undertaken.

Landscaping:

Green areas are being beautifully managed and trees of varying degrees of maturation have been noted at several locations around the town and the town centre. A small exception was the grassed area on the Brownstown entrance where the grass was a little too long. Landscaping marking the entrance to the town form the R415 at the Kildare Village and Modes Link junction was most impressive and Kildare town has been

considered for a landscaping award in relation to this. Your themed gardens are an excellent initiative. Avoid planting anything at the base of trees as it can stunt their growth to a certain extent. We wish you success in your future landscaping plans such as the planting of concrete block walls with creepers. Ensure that the majority of planting is of native species to support wildlife habitats.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The proposed ecology audit for Kildare town is an excellent initiative together with the provision of information panels and a walking trail; we look forward to this development. The proposed development of small scale school projects sound promising which will of course do much to enhance and promote an understanding of wildlife to students. Well done on your liaison with the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Litter Control:

Litter control in Kildare town was quite good on the day of adjudication with most of the litter seen most likely being generated by passing traffic, these took the shape of plastic water bottles and soft drink cans. No doubt your litter patrol throughout the area involving new volunteers plays an important part on the litter free aspect of the town centre. It is good to note the work with resident associations in relation to participation in the National Annual Spring Clean. Well done on your liaison with both Kildare County Council and with private landowners in relation to the provision of new litter bins and dumping; hopefully you will be successful in the installation of Pooper Scoopers in the town and open areas.

Waste Minimisation:

Congratulations to local schools who have worked hard to reduce their waste production as part of the Green Flag Schools program; the three secondary schools which have started the program are wished every success. Your state of the art recycling facility has been noted and your composting facilities and initiative is acknowledged also. It is good to note that waste collected from clean up and litter pick ups are segregated for recycling as appropriate.

Tidiness:

As noted above, your liaison with landowners in relation to dumping no doubt plays an important role in the tidy aspect of Kildare. Much needs to be achieved however for the overall presentation or redevelopment of vacant premises, which because of their lack of occupancy have fallen into disrepair. An untidy rubble filled site near the "welcome" sign on the northern entrance is a poor introduction to Kildare town.

Residential Areas:

The committee are to be congratulated on the compilation of a list of projects which each resident association will be encouraged to undertake; undoubtedly the list will act as a basis for good practice within each area. The list is comprehensive featuring as it does signage, boundary walls and fences, buildings and open spaces. As with almost every other town and village in the country, Kildare town has experienced a lot of growth in latter years resulting in new residential developments; most have been beautifully landscaped and appear to be maintained to a high standard. Do keep up the pressure to ensure that each residential development features a good attractive and legible name stone or nameplate.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

There are some excellent presentations in relation to road surfaces and new footpaths, it was good to note that all streets are clearly identified with good quality street signs. The southern entrance to the town suffers from visual clutter in the form of signs, no doubt this will be addressed in the not too distant future given your negotiations with Kildare County Council. The car park at the church is attractively presented; on street car parking in the town centre gives rise to visual clutter. Street furniture looked quite well.

General Impression:

Kildare is an attractive town with fine heritage and wildlife amenity value; we look forward to the enhancement of wildlife with the involvement of schoolchildren in the installation of bird boxes and at some stage a species count of birds.

