

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilkea** Ref: **372**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **217**
Category: **A** Date(s): **22/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	25
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	217

Overall Development Approach:

Kilkea is welcome to the 2007 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, we note the absence of a plan. It is difficult to make substantial progress without working to a plan and having a longer term view of the overall development of your village, hopefully you will forward one for next year's competition. It is good to note from your application form that your voluntary workers are increasing each year and that you work in cooperation with Kilkea Castle and the Kildare County Council. Well done also on your involvement with the local schools. Kilkea is situated in an idyllic rural setting and there must be lots of potential to develop walks in the surrounding woodland areas and other natural amenities. Perhaps you could start by developing a walk to Sli na Slainte standards.

The Built Environment:

Buildings constructed with local stone are an attractive feature of Kilkea and the church is absolutely charming. The boundary wall of the school could be refurbished to good effect. We wish you every success in bringing to fruition your plans for your historic village.

Landscaping:

As always the avenue leading to Kilkea Castle is beautiful with its tree lined verges and neatly maintained grass areas on both sides. Stands of mature trees lining the road in the village centre are splendid and mature trees on approach roads were admired also. It is good to note that you encourage the landscaping of new developments, do try to ensure that native species are chosen to support wildlife.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Wild grasses on the verges of some roads are an important habitat for insects and butterflies and other small animals. Local woodland areas offer opportunities to develop nature trails and walks. Some consideration might be given to conducting a wildlife survey to identify habitats present both in the village itself and within its environs and to promote awareness by the use of interpretive panels, brochures, leaflets etc. The survey could also be used to protect wildlife in the face of future development.

Litter Control:

Litter control is excellent and we note your involvement with the school, the local county council and residents to maintain Kilkea's litter free status.

Waste Minimisation:

There appears not to be a project in situ under this heading nor was a recycling point noted. The aim under waste minimisation is to reduce the amount of waste produced by the community, to this end a waste audit might be undertaken with a view to devising strategies to minimise waste. A good place to start might be to host composting seminars and activities for residents.

Tidiness:

It is important to maintain curbs and the base of walls free of weed growth, a site near the new housing development featured weeds. Remove the remains of the poster from a service pole. A derelict shed was in need of attention located beside the natural stone yard.

Residential Areas:

Stone dwellings within Kilkea are an attractive feature together with their boundary walls. Work in progress was noted on a new housing development and grass verges and young trees together with other landscaping are an attractive feature. Perhaps name stones can be provided in the future. It is good to note that you encourage new residents to become involved in the Tidy Towns initiative.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The hard shoulder in the centre of the village looked quite poor. Name signs are nicely presented. We wish you well with the increased volume of traffic within your tiny village and feel confident that you will be successful in tackling this problem also.

General Impression:

Kilkea is a beautiful village in an idyllic setting and appears to be incorporating/assimilating new residents into the community successfully. Well done on a fine performance.