

# Tidy Towns Competition 2007

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Kinlough** Ref: **433**  
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **212**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **26/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	13
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	23
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>212</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Kinlough to the 2007 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for the excellent map of the village that was most helpful on adjudication day. Your Tidy Towns Committee of 12 people still seems to be the same size as last year. With the great changes happening in the village at the moment you really need more support at committee level. However it is encouraging to read that local businesses are supporting your good work for Kinlough and that Leitrim County Council has evidently pledged financial support. The ongoing support of agencies such as LEADER is critically important. You have an involvement with the school through the art competition and hopefully you can extend this involvement in the future. The adjudicator notes that a Tidy Towns Work Programme or Plan for Kinlough was not submitted with your entry documentation this year. All towns and villages are strongly recommended to have a simple straight forward 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for their area. This Plan is prepared by your Committee in consultation with the appropriate local organisations and agencies in the Kinlough area. It should be no more than seven to ten pages long. The purpose of the Plan is to guide the work of your Tidy Towns Committee and others over the short to medium term. Your Plan should detail year by year the work that your committee and supporting organisations and agencies intend to carry out each year. It is recommended that you do not have too many objectives each year – perhaps 4 or 5 key projects are adequate. In November of each year your Tidy Towns Plan should then be advanced by a further year and the year coming to an end can then be dropped from the Plan. You will find that this planned approach will be really helpful for your work in Kinlough.

### **The Built Environment:**

It is encouraging to see that derelict sites are now under construction and the new hotel development will mean a big boost for the local economy. Stone walls are one of the characteristics of the village and it is most important that these are preserved in any future developments. Any new stone walls built as a result on development should reflect the design and materials of the older traditional stone walls. Among the buildings

that caught the eye were The Laundry Room and especially the Wellington Inn. At the Wellington the hand signage and lettering is extremely good and is so much better than using artificial media. Both of these buildings reflect a good colour choice as do several other properties in the village. Good presentation was noted at the Community Centre and again a good colour works well on this building. The overhead metal barriers however need to be painted in a bright colour. At the National School the roadside gates would be improved if they can be repainted for 2008. The Catholic Church is a beautiful building using a warm stone and together with the trees to the front presents extremely well. The derelict cottage near Classic Cuts would be improved if this could be whitewashed each summer pending any redevelopment plans that there may be for this site. The Shrine was well presented and the adjudicator noted that long uncut grass was left to the side and this is excellent in terms of thinking of the needs of wildlife. The road boundary wall needs to be painted.

### **Landscaping:**

A small but effective landscaped area was noted at the Cliffony junction and this demonstrates an important point that landscaping does not have to be large in scale in order to be noticed and to be successful. New flower beds have been noted in the village, and very good raised landscaping was a feature at the Community Centre. The beds here were extremely colourful.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

You indicated that no work has taken place in regard to this category for 2008. In many towns and villages this is an aspect of the Tidy Towns Competition where there can be significant potential for development. All towns and villages have the presence of wildlife to some degree. It is important that your Tidy Towns Committee would examine further the wildlife potential of Kinlough and see what you can achieve in terms of making your area even more wildlife friendly. The new Biodiversity Award that is now part of the Tidy Towns Competition should be considered by your Committee for 2008. If you have not already done so, the starting point is to have a habitat survey carried out of the wildlife in your area. Suggested habitats to be considered include the following –

- Urban habitats – gardens, waste ground, walls, graveyards, hedges
- Wetland habitats – rivers, ponds, lakes, canals, reed marsh, bogs
- Woodland habitats – forests, hedgerows, plantations, parks
- Grassland habitats – roadside verges, parks, wet meadows, dry grasslands

The survey should produce a species list for each of the habitats relevant to the Kinlough area. This need not be an expensive survey. Perhaps there is a knowledgeable person locally who might undertake this task for you. Basically the survey would identify the animals, plants, birds, fish that inhabit the Kinlough area and their associated habitats. It should be remembered that to carry out the survey properly that it will probably take a year so that all habitats can be assessed at different times of the year. Using the results of the wildlife survey your next step should be to draft a straight forward Plan to preserve the identified habitats in your area, and investigate the possibility of new ones. Ultimately your objective is to encourage the existing wildlife to stay in your area and encourage new species to move in. This can only be done by creating an awareness of the feeding and shelter needs of the various species in the area. It is most important to try and involve your local school children in this project, and in many schools there is probably a teacher who may have an interest in this area who would be willing to get involved. As part of the actions to be undertaken in your Wildlife Plan you might like to consider the provision of some weather proof display panels, illustrating and explaining the wildlife in your area. This has been done very successfully in many towns and villages in Ireland.

### **Litter Control:**

The weekly road sweeping and the clean up evenings are excellent initiatives for keeping on top of the litter control problem. Do not however the side streets and lanes as these will also need frequent checking in terms of litter control. The adjudicator feels that is an excellent idea for the Tidy Towns Committee to take on responsibility for the Bring Bank. The presentation of this area on adjudication day was really quite poor and the adjudicator is of the view that this is not a good location for this facility. It needs to be located where people can see it and in that way discourage misuse. Much litter was noted around the units and the area was rather dirty and most uninviting. The signage and the units needed to be washed and the large iron gate painted. Bad littering was noted on The Lane and litter also featured on the Rossinver approach road.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Congratulations to the primary school on achieving Green Flag status in 2006. You indicated that they are involved in encouraging recycling but did not indicate how. This is a new category in the Tidy Towns Competition first introduced in 2006. The purpose of this new category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Marks can be gained for the promotion of best practice. This can include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean up events. The organising of a Workshop

on waste minimisation in your community is another initiative that you might consider. This could be held on a waste minimisation community awareness day as part of a series of local initiatives. You could also consider a partnership with local firms and businesses to encourage them to reduce unnecessary waste. In regard to waste minimisation it is important to remember that quite small actions can sometimes have a significant waste reduction impact. The Race Against Waste booklet circulated to all Tidy Towns Committee in 2006 has many ideas on waste reduction that may be of help to your committee.

#### **Tidiness:**

You have mentioned that you plan to control weed growth at pavements and kerbing and this is welcomed by your adjudicator. Quite bad instances of weed growth were noted at kerbing and at the base of stone walls. For example the weed growth at the small stone bridge was quite bad. Along Back Street to the side of the Church a quite untidy area was noted on the left and screening would be a possible solution here.

#### **Residential Areas:**

You have indicated that you have done minimal work in this category for 2007 due to ongoing residential developments. Uncompleted developments are causing problems for the presentation of Kinlough. At the Millbrook estate bad weed growth at kerbing was noted at this otherwise attractive low density estate that has good landscaping. Brooklawn presented in a less than tidy manner as the green area was uncut and some rubbish was noted inside the entrance on the right hand side. An unnamed estate with The Garden Cottage at the end had bad weed growth at kerbing. Good landscaping was noted at The Garden Cottage. The infill housing on the Rossinver road has the potential for a good coordinated colour scheme. Good grass areas at the entrance were a feature of Oakfield Manor. The extremely large green area here will need extensive landscaping and there is an opportunity here for a major landscaping statement.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Mill Road was quite poorly presented while on the Manorhamilton approach road some verges had been cut but the cut grass had not been removed. A very bad verge area was noted opposite the Community Centre. No recent work appeared to have been carried on The Lane though on adjudication day the strimming of this area had just started. On the Tulaghan road some work had been done on the verges while the Bundoran road had some very well presented verge areas with the new planting. The Rossinver approach road verges had been very roughly cut.

#### **General Impression:**

At a period of serious transition for Kinlough you will find that a planned approach will serve you well. Good luck with your projects for 2008.