

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcormac** Ref: **287**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **226**
Category: **C** Date(s): **30/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	24
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	226

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the comprehensive entry with report on activities and plans for this year. Kilcormac Tidy Towns appear well organised with good planning skills which has paid off in significantly increasing marks since newly reformed in 2003. After this initial renewal of energies it would be timely to set out a longer term plan of objectives and priorities for 3-5 years. It comes across that the committee knows the strengths and weaknesses of their town and so it augurs well for continued improvements. There is good co-operation between local groups and the local authority

The Built Environment:

Generally in town there are a lot of derelict buildings in private ownership which are a challenge to change. Are the owners of the buildings on board? Some towns have addressed this, with owners permission, by using plywood to board up windows and doors and painting frontages. Fencing in front of sites to screen off derelict areas behind. Some of these are key buildings in the town and it will be interesting to see what is done with them. There is great potential in Kilcormac. The road past the fairgreen could be tidied up a bit, with some walls here and there need painting

There is a fine community centre which is an asset to the town with very good landscaping and planting all around it. It is very clean and attractive. There is lots of stone work and it suggests an interesting heritage

Is the fire station in use? Apart from the building itself being in need of a paint, it was blocked in front and surfaces need repainting. Lot of old buildings with heritage features in the town. Traditional style fronts should be kept where possible. Town square has a good noticeboard, with heritage information, in prime location. The planters enhance the area and theres space for more, and more contents wouldn't be amiss, allround efforts made towards this being a good focus for the village.

Quite a lot of vacant properties with no signs so its hard to know if they are coming or leaving. It is hoped that there are new businesses taking up residence there. The interesting building opposite town square looks like it once had an important use, such as co-op or even a cinema perhaps, but no indication of what plans are for it. Its prime location means great potential for development.
It will be good to have more street signs

Landscaping:

The green areas could be given more attention and enhanced with beds, summer bedding, foliage, berry and seed bearing plants and shrubs to support wildlife. There are new trees on Birr Road at gaa grounds and roses at signs. There is potential for improvements at bench on lough boora parklands road. More containers in town centre would help bring focus to the square

The new stone seating at silver river bank is attractive. Its a good amenity to have in the town but it does need some attention. At the moment this area is not very welcoming as its quite overgrown with litter strewn about. It is evident that its looked after to some extent but not up to the standard it could be. The bank needs some landscaping and generally some more tidying up and quite a lot of litter here.
Theres plenty space to do more gardens inside the school. Projects for wildlife can be done here such as wildlife garden, involving school children. Is the school a Green School? The committee has stated it wants to encourage mroe involvement from young people

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The riverside walk beside silver river has further stone seating. Wonder if it could be enhanced under the wildlife section. Has there been a survey done? Could be in conjunction with the local school as a project. Lovely old bridge going over to another green area with more picnic benches. There is an interesting area between river and church which once was maybe an overflow, could be developed into wetlands ponds areas for wildlife areas. Its very peaceful but being secluded it is a litter black spot and needs careful monitoring.

Has it been considered to close the route beside silver river off to cars? Community Centre can still be accessed from other side. Its so close to water that its not very safe for driving/ pedestrians together and making it pedestrianised will enhance it as wildlife area.

Litter Control:

There was quite a lot of litter around the town including dog litter. At the silver river already mentioned, there are 'please don't litter' signs, Committee is probably aware it's a black spot for litter. Are there volunteers in programme of regular litter picks? There is ample information regarding awareness campaigns and encouraging positive action such as with development of a tidy towns video.

Good efforts made on awareness including projects with school competition for logo. Litter persists in some areas but consistent work, combining clean up action and awareness raising, with issuing of litter fines in persistent cases, will yield results over time.

Waste Minimisation:

The local school is involved in the An Taisce Green Schools programme and would be working on waste reduction through that. Encourage them in this as links with community is an essential element to the programme and required for awarding the green flag. Recycling waste from clean-ups is good. There are no waste projects planned but many marks can be gained in this section - see the Race Against Waste guide for further info.

Tidiness:

There is a general feeling of work in progress in Kilcormac. The streetscape here is untidy – lots of overhead crisscross wires, all the poles need repainting, lots of random boards and cones on ground, pavement broken, is it a candidate for village renewal scheme?

St josephs cemetery was not too bad but in need of litter bins to be emptied.

Outside the gaa field they've done some nice work with parking management and some colour there is appealing with the kerbing dividers for parking management between parking spaces.

The old shop front of faeries? Is interesting and gracelands bar beside it has put a lot of effort into its appearance and centra building well painted with bright colours. Frankford house is presentable. Lovely old building across from it – probly old school hosue or convent or infirmary. Streetscape down this end is a lot better – theres a lot of work going on with footpaths so possibly some cabling has been put underground and when that's finished the town will look better for it. Coffeys worth a mention – looks nice. That's it.

Some litter on this approach also

Very good anti-graffiti measures at gaa wall – planted ivy

Some nice private residences on this route into town

Residential Areas:

Keep up the on-going efforts with representatives from estates

St cormacs park very pleasant residential area, some nice colourful painting, all houses well presented, large green area could perhaps benefit from further landscaping – nice mature trees and newer ones recently planted.

Seems to have a catholic history linked to the school as its got some arches with crosses which are unusual. Scoil muire ns very fine building.

Lovely residential area in glendine where all the properties are very presentable and relatively new estate which is very clean

Priory estate is a new residential area so hasn't matured – is quite bare but very clean and tidy – lacking somewhat in character. Some beds on village green would add character to the place and once the gardens and front of houses have been individualised somewhat, it will give more interest to the area. Lovely plantings on entrance though. The adopt a patch scheme will help improve residential areas

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The welcome stones on entry on the bridge, failte go kilcormac, is lovely.

The approach from bullyboy side has a derelict building on right, very noticeable. On the kinnitty approach, be good if something was done with that. On kinnitty approach road some good paths and tidy verges on right. Still fairly untidy but its work in progress. Path starts after cemetary

Approach from kinnitty, notice absence of welcome signs – opportunity there to do something landscaping planters etc to give attractive entry to village. Some litter on this approach also

Approach from berr is acceptable and some efforts gone into making entrance with stone work and planting around waterpump.

General Impression:

Kilcormac is a sizeable town with lots of potential. It is emerging from some time of neglect but with a strong energy to take things forward. The committee is putting themselves forward well. Got lot of potential but need a lot of work. Possibly a problem with not sufficient participation. Lots of projects started, just need to keep up the momentum.