

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killeigh** Ref: **596**
County: **Offaly** Mark: **245**
Category: **A** Date(s): **26/06/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	245

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry form and enclosed map. It is noted that participation levels are not as good as they could be and hopefully that will improve. There seems to be good links with the county council and local businesses. It would be good to see a 3-5 year plan setting out goals and priorities. There appears to be good level of planning in projects undertaken and be good to see what is planned for years ahead.

The Built Environment:

The church development has seen an improvement in car parking spaces and attractive planting started there. The raised areas could take more planters and no doubt that is what is planned, if not already completed. The GAA is beside and not looking too bad but walls could do with a paint job in near future – has suffered from vandalism with broken window visible

The abbey farm building is impressive, very well maintained with lovely gardens in front and a tree lined avenue with mature beech trees in front. The equally impressive parish Church of Ireland is alongside. I wonder if a restoration of the bell in church yard would be a possible undertaking.

Built environment is attractive, lovely old style cottages and maintained to high standard with nice painting and so on. Unfortunately many pvc windows which are now a common sight

Picnic benches and info sign which I love to see, there aren't enough of these – this is done between offaly leader and a few partners.

Lovely planting to left of post office as you're lookin at it, cordoning off car parking area from the road, again

lovely foliage for year round interest. Quite a few buildings with heritage value.

Doyles pub is looking fine although its neighbours towards the car sales are not looking their best. There are old and restored old walls, with new developments retaining the outside features. Iron railings and traditional windows will help keep village heritage.

Landscaping:

Many attractive shrubs and flowers planted throughout the village. Ongoing maintenance of village and green areas requires ongoing efforts from volunteers.

The central focus of the village is the green, which is very well maintained. Nice paths and trees, year round interest with varied foliage. The ball alley in middle of green I never even noticed from other side, even though it's a big concrete structure, because its well disguised behind a large eucalyptus tree and load of ivy – with bench and stone wall its lovely.

Throughout the village there is evidence of good planting with year round interest and wildlife. Evidence of regular maintenance of green areas and beds and bases of trees, while some places are left wild, and often seen wildflowers and grasses at bases of hedgrows. This is lovely work.

Could enhance the landscaping in the triangular green area in front of cemetery to make a stronger feature out of square bed. Taking into account traffic visibility of course, which wouldn't seem to hinder something with more height which would be an attractive entry point at this end of town.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Bird life is abundant throughout village especially at the green area with ball alley.

No wildlife projects planned – suggest the 7 wells walk is like a wildlife walk. Maybe info on hedgerow habitats would be appropriate as there are brambles, hawthorn, hazel and wild roses

Evidence of wildlife considerations in individuals plantings as mentioned above

Lovely old stone killeigh bridge and little stream beneath and grassed area beside that. Looks like some clearance work has been done on the stream at the stone bridge. Be careful to maintain some wild areas there for wildlife as some spraying was evident. To leave it wild/ plant wild flowers against far wall would be good

Excellent how they've provided access up to the 7 blessed wells – the whole way up is along a stream but theres good fencing to separate you from a working farm on the other side and st sechels way was on a sign at the start. Some further clearing evident which is probably work of the committee and very overgrown further on but then again you have the balance between clearing it out and keeping it natural for wildlife, some advice should be sought on that – perhaps a survey of the stream

Litter Control:

Approach from tullamore free of litter

Everywhere is totally litter free – even litter blackspot, in behind the old wall, only couple of cans in it, could've been a lot worse and sure it has been at times

The Recycling centre is used to capacity. It was overflowing and some litter present – need to keep on about these being emptied regularly – shame as otherwise the village is completely litter free

Noted some litter around the recycling bins is from the construction site beside school so perhaps have a word to them to take care not to let litter blow to where its visible from footpath.

Back road into church which could be a litter black spot is spotless

- everywhere is completely litter free, litter bins all emptied

Well done – efforts in this area are paying off

Waste Minimisation:

Killeigh is fortunate to have a Green School as part of the community. The children and teachers will have been working on waste reduction, reuse and recycling projects for some time now so will no doubt have experiences to share

The Recycling centre is used to capacity. It was overflowing and some litter present – need to keep on about these being emptied regularly – shame as otherwise the village is completely litter free

It would be an idea to do an awareness drive about household recycling and composting. This could be combined with a drive to recruit new volunteers to the Tidy Towns efforts. With inclusion of waste and wildlife aspects there may be locals with expertise in these relatively new areas who previously lacked interest, that may come on board

Tidiness:

The village is generally very tidy apart from a few exceptions

There was some graffiti noticed in the ball park but its not too bad. Perhaps the edges of ball park could be tidied up – made free of weeds – perhaps it could even become a project – official graffiti project or plain painting involving the local school.

Hedges are trimmed back, and some good traffic calming measures in place. Near the cemetery is tidy, with a long plain wall opposite - although totally free of weeds, and clean perhaps it would look better painted.

Going out towards mt bolus, and hillview crescent, hedges and verges were trimmed and natural hedge in places. Could do with tidying up the kerbing as there is a lot of grass growing here – probably a work in progress which has since been tackled.

Unfortunately the gaa club has had some problems with vandalism

Outside old graveyard has untidy broken paving at entrance and could be tidied up a bit with respect to old gravestones. The footpaths in this area seem new and are good all the way past the school

Residential Areas:

The entrance into hillview crescent has an unattractive barbed wire fence. This could be improved by replacing the chicken wire and concrete posts with something more in keeping with high standards in rest of the village. Would be nice to retain the native trees, possibly once from a hedgerow that are there and be interesting to see what they do with that but its no doubt could be improved. Quite a pleasant housing arrangement with some private gardens v nice indeed, others not so nice but I'm sure the comm. knows who they have to work on. Green has some nice planting – different heights and different foliage. Unofficial path across the green which could be made into a feature perhaps with some paving or just trimming grass back from edges

Litter bins are not too bad but signs have fallen off. Would these be replaced or repaired? Walls here and there should be painted.

As mentioned in last years report, the entrance to housing at back of green is untidy with old poles and wire at gateposts. There has been some cutting of grass and spraying of weeds at kerbs so work has begun here already to tidy it up. Hedge planting at entrance has also been done. The houses, which are relatively new development, are big and handsome with mature trees opposite forming lovely border with the green.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Took the approach from tullamore and approach from this side completely free of litter. Traffic calming measures in place and trimmed grass verges

Very pleasant around the village

Path opposite the school is new, as far as the parish priests house. It is stated the council is to complete the work at the bridge. All approaches are fine and road surfaces did not stand out as causing problems, with good paths in key areas.

General Impression:

Killeigh is a very pleasant, tidy, village. Despite the low level of volunteers, the village is attractive and well maintained so the efforts of the few dedicated are noteworthy. Keep up the good work and others will join.