

Tidy Towns Competition 2007

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildorrery** Ref: **457**
County: **Cork (North)** Mark: **229**
Category: **B** Date(s): **04/07/2007**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2007
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	14
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	229

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your completed Entry Form together with the most useful Map. Major realignment is in progress on the Mallow Road with the inevitable temporary disruption. The Fermoy Road development consisting of a picnic area with its wheelchair ramp and enhanced by the birds display board and parking recess is a delightful new development. The tremendous work done on the stone wall all the way in from this point is highly commendable. The colourful children's play area looked very well and we applaud the installation of the proper safety matting. The yard of the former Cinema is quite untidy and efforts should be made to screen it off with appropriate gates. Castle Gayle House is a most interesting timber frontage now in need of general repairs. The light on one of the capitals is currently missing. It is not clear if the floodlighting is still operational. The dry fill stone wall on the Limerick Road is an interesting example of vernacular rural skills. It should be correctly exposed by the removal of encroaching vegetation. The water tower is an interesting and functional element of the landscape. With the current road realignment work in progress please ensure the road surface is brought out to mesh with the existing kerbs without leaving the current gap, which does look unsightly.

The Built Environment:

There are many examples of splendid walls in Kildorrery. The fine wall at the G.A.A. grounds should be exploited. The G.A.A. entrance gate and area is strong, sensible and appropriate to its setting. The A. Monaghan Shop, now shut, one hopes will soon be returned to gainful use. Walsh's Corner House looked well while work was in progress on the premises at the other side of the corner. The Post Office, nearby, was an absolute gem and extremely well presented. We noted the plaque to the original Cow and Gate factory of 1887. Murphy's Victualler had a splendid traditional shop front while O'Sullivan's established 1951 looked very well. The Garda Station was small, neat and orderly but suffered from the gap between the pavement and the road proper. Mountain View looked very well with window boxes, hanging baskets and planters. The small

scale housing is excellent and well presented with ample tree planting. Noreen's hair saloon caught the eye while Ollie's Bar was colourful. We liked the traditional weighing scales outside the Pharmacy while the Catholic Church looked very well and the grounds were delightfully presented.

Landscaping:

The extensive tree farm with excellent planting to the foreground was a good introduction to the centre. The shrubs outside the school play area and the planting opposite the school looked appealing. Sadly, the very interesting sign giving details of the various looped walks, located opposite the School is somewhat faded and should be repaired before next year's competition. The cemetery was neat, tidy and orderly. The mature trees on the Limerick Road and on the main street are now contributing significantly to the overall scene. The picnic area on the Mitcheltown Road was very well laid out and maintained.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

There is considerable leeway, and marks to be picked up in this category. Selecting an area or areas for development as a Bird and Wildlife habitat is the first element of the task. The promotion of bird and wildlife necessarily starts with the planting of suitable native, berry bearing plants and shrubs as the creation of the necessary food chain is the all important next step. Discuss the options with a local birdlife or wildlife enthusiast or consult the Environment Officer, contactable through the local authority.

Litter Control:

The centre in general was well supplied with appropriately located and suitably designed litter bins. We noticed that they were observed at the walks sign, outside the G.A.A grounds and elsewhere throughout Kildorrery. The School area was free of litter while the town centre was similarly well presented. A small amount of gravel around the gates to the School detracted somewhat from the overall vista.

Waste Minimisation:

It is now generally recognised that all of us must play our part in reducing the extent of waste materials being carted to landfill sites. The need for reduction of waste, reuse where feasible and recycling wherever possible is both desirable and necessary. Consult the Tidy Towns Booklet and the literature from the 'Race against Waste' for ideas as how best to proceed. The bring bank in the G.A.A. grounds was well presented together with the facilities for recycling clothes, bed linen etc organised by the St. Vincent de Paul.

Tidiness:

Examine a number of signs which are currently obscured by trees and shrubs. For example the urban village renewal sign is almost totally hidden behind shrubs at the picnic area on Fermoy Road. The new pavement and new wire fencing together with the flood lighting at the G.A.A. are very positive elements. Not all the car park is covered with hard surface, this makes for a somewhat untidy view. Some material which may have been needed for the building has taken root in front of the fine tall stone wall. It together with the ivy should be removed to expose this fine wall. If the old stone roller is no longer required it too should be consigned to a more appropriate permanent resting place.

The gates before the junction and above the cemetery require painting. We have noted and allowed for the inevitable disruption occasioned by the major road works currently in train.

Residential Areas:

In common with many centres in Cork, Kildorrery is experiencing major new building developments. Bearna Deara is a major new development with a very large/long entrance. It is not clear if some of this area is intended to be developed over time. If not do ensure that there are appropriate plans in position to maintain the extensive grassed areas. The slightly elevated sites offers fantastic views towards the mountains in the distance. A suitable pavement was in course of construction.

Hillcrest is another development. There were new, independent house being built on the Limerick Road. Please ensure that all of these complete their front facing walls and establish suitable entrances. The presentation of the Senior Citizen's housing was done to a very high order.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The Fermoy Road village name plate and the speed limit signs were slightly obscured. The community alert area and school sign were very well presented. On the Mallow Road because of the old road major

realignment and the new houses the present surface is extremely rough indeed dangerous. The wide new road will need the installation of appropriate traffic calming measures. The new anti skid surface on the approach to the junction is commendable. The Limerick Road featured many signs, Welcome to Kildorrery, both in Irish and English, fine picnic tables and delightful lavender beds which were most attractive. From the junction where the path starts please brush it to remove spoil and the weeds from kerbs. The speed limit sign is in danger of being obscured by encroaching vegetation. Additional signs should simply be washed for best effect. The phone box and other street furniture was in good order throughout.

General Impression:

While the River Bridge on the Mitchelstown Road is somewhat outside your area it would be appropriate to agitate for the early painting of the metal railing. The Map you kindly provided made reference to several ring forts both off the Mallow Road and either side of the Mitchelstown Road. Where appropriate pedestrian access might be provided for one or more of these together with simple directional signs. Well done to all for a fine presentation of a most interesting town.