

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kingscourt** Ref: **54**
County: **Cavan** Mark: **192**
Category: **D** Date(s): **16/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	26
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	13
Litter Control	50	24
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	12
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	192

Overall Development Approach:

Overall Development 27

Kingscourt is welcome to the National TidyTowns Competition in this its 50th Anniversary year. Thank you for your submission, we note the absence of a planned work programme and map with this year's entry and urge you to provide these in future. It is good to note that you are liaising with Cavan County Council on the development plan for the area and that you are working to get everyone involved in the TidyTowns initiative. There has been at a substantial increase in marks this year and at this rate it should not take too long for the town to break through the 200 marked threshold. Kingscourt enjoys generous proportions in its streetscape and there are excellent views of the main street from the Dublin Road entrance. Log on to the TidyTowns website at www.tidytowns.ie for useful information and tips on competing.

The Built Environment:

Kingscourt has a handsome stock of two and three story period buildings together with 21st century architecture. There are many attractive shopfronts in the town however the indiscriminate positioning of posters and window stickers in doors and windows work against any achieving a shopfront award. Be advised that security shutters can be placed inside of windows to allow internal lighting and a window display at night after business hours, this is good for business and enhances the streetscape. The Supervalu premises looks a bit jaded and dated. The church and its grounds on the Kells road is presented to a standard of excellence and the old Cabra school is an attractive building also. We wish you well in your plans to organise 'Clean Sweep Groups' for every Saturday and Sunday.

Landscaping:

Well done on container flower displays in hanging baskets window boxes and others all were colourful and profuse. Trees in the centre of the street are maturing nicely and add a graceful touch to the streetscape. One of the roundabouts in the town centre was in need of a landscaping and there is further scope for attractive hard landscaping to the front of the old Parochial Hall. In future landscaping programmes favour native species over ornamental trees and plants as these are more supportive of wildlife.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The sports grounds located behind Cabra school enjoy a good level of maintenance. We note from your submission that access to Dun a Ri Forest Park has been improved from the town, the next step now will be to provide fingerpost signs from the town centre. Well done on the improvement of access to the People's Park located behind the Community Centre. A survey of the flora and fauna of Kingscourt and environs might be undertaken in conjunction with the schools and the findings published on all-weather vandal-proof interpretive

Litter Control:

Some litter was noted to along the Main Street, this consisted mostly of crisp bags sweet wrappers and plastic bottles, it didn't present a serious problem as they were isolated incidents rather than a trend however it is something to watch. A litter survey should be undertaken to identify the type and source of litter, this will enable you to devise appropriate strategies to better manage your litter control. Reference has already been made above to your intention to establish weekly clean up groups. We wish you every success in your plan to appoint a Litter Warden .

Waste Minimisation:

It is good to note the existence of your recycling point however dreadful dumping here was an eyesore this was located behind the Fire Station on the Kells road. More regular monitoring will have to be engaged in here. We note from your submission that you are working with St Josephs school regarding involvement in the National Spring Clean, well done on this initiative. Ultimately a community waste audit should be undertaken with a view to reducing the amount of waste produced in Kingscourt in addition to recycling activities.

Tidiness:

Hopefully the remaining overhead service cables in the town centre will be deducted in the not-too-distant future. Some derelict/vacant premises are in evidence and a number of untidy sites particularly near the Fire Station on the Kells Road were noted also. Your plan to organise a major clearance of scrub on Station Road is acknowledged as are your plans for a new sign.

Residential Areas:

Residential properties are generally well presented but there was a lot of work still in progress on new developments at the time of adjudication. Hopefully new residents will mean new hands for TidyTowns work however to bring this about the committee might need to consider initiatives such as 'Meet the Neighbours' evenings and perhaps Best-Kept Residential Estates competition in order to introduce people to the community and to get them involved in TidyTowns work. Keep sending out the TidyTowns message regarding the necessity to present gardens, boundary walls and roadside areas to boundary walls to a high standard and to take responsibility for communal green areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Wide streets and footpaths are an attractive and characteristic feature of Kingscourt and offer potential for further landscaping. On-street car-parking is orderly and some stretches of road and footpath are to good standard however Hall Street is potholed, this compares unfavourably with Rock Road which can boast an excellent surface. Plans for new stretches of foot path at various locations are acknowledged. Street names signs are good and approach roads including their nameplates are quite well presented also.

General Impression:

The overall appearance of Kingscourt is one of a handsome town with considerable potential for success in the TidyTowns Competition. The committee should formulate a planned work programme and submit that with each year's application indicating what has been achieved in the previous year. We wish you every success in future and look forward to Kingscourt breaking the 200 mark very soon.

