

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilkee** Ref: **72**
County: **Clare** Mark: **285**
Category: **C** Date(s): **09/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	47
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	33
Litter Control	50	37
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	285

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you Kilkee TidyTowns Committee for your entry on behalf of Kilkee town to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Welcome to the competition and well done on your submission.

Thanks to your Committee of twenty people who take the time and effort to attend your monthly meetings, in addition to other TidyTowns events. Your Committee and partnership organisations are doing very worthwhile work for Kilkee, a town with a population of less than 2,500 people. Well done to all concerned.

Thanks also for the detailed village map.

Your Committee members are also members of the (Kilkee) Town Council, Chamber of Commerce, the Development Association, Civic Trust, Pastoral Council, Women's Group, and other organisations. The ongoing partnership work with these organisations and the local community including the School, and the local businesses, and all those that have supported your activities is of obvious benefit to all. This is a vital ingredient in the success of TidyTowns activities.

The work of local people, residents, business people, schoolchildren and others is to be praised. Well done on your energy and commitment. A recommendation is for the Committee to prepare a very short three-year plan on TidyTowns activities to say 2011. This plan would help you focus on agreed targets and need only be set out in short bullet points and would not exceed a page or two.

Your ongoing involvement with the TidyTowns since 1958 is a superb record.

I wish you all the best with your planned activities into the future. Keep up the great work.

The Built Environment:

Kilkee is a wonderful seaside resort and is well known nationally and internationally. Some famous personalities, apart from the many thousands who spend their annual holidays at Kilkee, have visited the resort over the many decades. These included Charlotte Bronte in 1854, Che Guevara in the 1960's and of course Richard Harris over many years.

The increase in the amount of excellent holiday accommodation now available has obviously increased the number of visitors to Kilkee. There are of course economic benefits to the town but the extra number of visitors has put additional pressure on the infrastructure of Kilkee. The town needs to continue to develop a strategy to cope with this additional pressure on Kilkee. The aim is to maintain a healthy balance between "the old and the new". This is not an easy task and the process of development must be managed by all involved in maintaining Kilkee as a wonderful place to live, work and spend leisure time.

Due to this process of change there is a wide variety in the quality of the built environment in the town. Those commercial buildings that impressed included: Kilkee Thalassotherapy Centre; Lynch's B&B; Marrinan's Pub; Gala Hayes's Fine Food; Stella Maris Hotel; Kincora; Hickie's Victualler; Patrick O'Shea Hair Salon; Diamond Rock Café; Kilkee Business Centre; Crokers and the Kilkee Bay Hotel; the Old Parachial House and Holiday Cottage; Ocean Cove Hotel; Yeung's Chinese Restaurant.

Other commercial buildings that need some painting or improvement include; the Bank of Ireland; AIB;

Some Public buildings, which could do with a facelift, include the Library.

The odd derelict building around the town needs a remedy, including the old Clare Motor Works.

The Church area looked well. Many of the older terraced townhouses are quite magnificent and their owners deserve credit for their excellent condition. Kilkee Waterworld and the wonderful currach roof structure looked impressive.

Landscaping:

The high standard of landscaping in the private residences is impressive. The involvement of the school pupils of Scoil Realt na Mara in the school vegetable project is excellent. There are some nice grassed landscaped areas in the East End at the old Anchor memorial, and at the front of the Ocean Cove Hotel with good seating facilities. This area while clean and tidy could do with some colour in terms of appropriate flowers and shrubs. The Golf Club occupies a magnificent location on the East End but its Car Park area could be improved with some additional more colourful landscaping. The grassed areas in general are in good condition but there is a distinct lack of colour around the town. Planted hanging baskets and other planted containers in high profile locations would be of major benefit to Kilkee.

The seated areas with the nice blue and white benches are a nice feature on the West End, on the Strand Line, and at locations in the East End and at Burn's Cove area. Well done to all involved.

On the day of my visit Allender's Field at the East End was in a poor condition. Much of the grassed and landscaped areas within the grounds were in need of basic maintenance and seemed unkempt. This is disappointing, as your Committee has highlighted this location for special attention.

This area has much potential but not in the condition it was in during my visit.

Well done to all involved in the various locations for good landscaping in the individual elements that get to make Kilkee look well. The residential areas of the town also put so much effort into their own gardens and the result is mainly impressive and of benefit.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The majestic seafront of the Atlantic is what makes Kilkee such a wonderful place to visit. The whole magnificent vista from the Diamond Rocks on the West End to George's Head on the East End is probably unique in Ireland. The waters of Kilkee Bay are wonderful. Congratulations on the award of the Blue Flag 2008. Well done on the new railings on the stepways at Burns Cove. While much work has been done in setting up some good Interpretative Panels on birds and wildlife I suggest there is more that could be done in this category. Kilkee Nature Trail Panels on Under the Sea; Rock Pools; Gulls and Seabirds, and Wading Birds, are all informative but could be more attractive for the visitor.

Consider contact with the Heritage Council on these projects.

Litter Control:

Kilkee looked mainly litter free on the day of my visit. This is a difficult task due to the high traffic volumes

however the efforts of all concerned are to be applauded. The George's Head/Burns Coves were litter free. The West End was also in good condition but the absence of litter bins was noted. Litter Free signs are however in evidence. The roads from the West End were clean and litter free. Well done to the two gentlemen on litter duty who are doing a good job. One area of disappointment was at the East End Car Park, litter and a black rubbish bag were evident and also a discarded child's nappy. A pity.

Waste Minimisation:

The purpose of this category is to encourage Tidy Towns Committees and the local community to get involved in projects that will reduce waste and encourage recycling. Projects could include community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean-up events,

Well done on the Lisdeen Recycling & Transfer Station. The drawing up of a minimisation programme multi lingual poster is a worthwhile initiative.

The Green Flag Schools Programme is a super programme. Well done to all involved. The involvement of the private businesses and residents in recycling initiatives is also to be congratulated.

Tidiness:

In general Kilkee looked tidy on the day of my visit. There are of course always pockets of untidiness that could be better. These included the East End Car Park, litter was on the ground. Also the two shelters in the Car Park are now roofless and look a sorry sight.

Residential Areas:

The older townhouses help retain the small town character and seaside charm of Kilkee and these are maintained to the best possible standards. The newer residential estates look quite well with some nice colour selection for painting the front of these houses. The Sextant Houses on the East End impressed. Houses on Grattan Street also impressed and were neat and tidy. The old Station House is in need of some maintenance and painting.

Some individual new houses on the outskirts of the town are top quality with some magnificent gardens. Congratulations to all concerned on the upkeep of their residential areas. However the area of the Percy French estate looked untidy and not in keeping with your stated plans.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach road from Kilrush is good, there is always, for this adjudicator, the wonderful childlike anticipation of getting close to Kilkee regardless of the weather.

The town was in general clean and tidy with some nice grassed landscaping which could be improved by planted hanging baskets.

General Impression:

Congratulations to Kilkee on your entry again to Tidy Towns and well done on the progress made on your many projects during 2008. Keep up this excellent work and engage as many as possible new members to your Committee. Also get assistance and help from as many State Organisations as is possible. Much experience rests within these agencies. I loved the statue/sculpture of the racehorse & jockey in the front garden of the house in the East End, and the Richard Harris memorial is so appropriate. Well done.

I look forward to further visits to Kilkee.