

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killaloe** Ref: **73**
County: **Clare** Mark: **254**
Category: **C** Date(s): **17/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	254

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you, the TidyTowns Committee, of Killaloe Community Council for your entry to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition, which is your fourth successive year of entry.

Thanks to your Committee of ten people, plus your additional members, who have taken the time and effort to attend your monthly meetings in addition to other TidyTowns events. Thanks also for your three-year Plan to 2010 and for the Ordinance Survey map. Your three-year plan is a new initiative this year and will assist the Committee in forward planning and setting targets up to the end of 2010. This is worthwhile and can of course be altered as the Committee's work progresses over time.

Your ongoing partnership work with the public and private sectors is of obvious benefit to all. This is a vital ingredient in the success of TidyTowns activities and could in itself be a specific target in your three-year plan. Your Communications strategy is excellent and the use of a dedicated TidyTowns mobile phone to contact volunteers is a good idea. Well done.

Congratulations to the Boys National School on being awarded the Green Flag and your planned initiative to invite Transition-Year pupils to join your Committee will only bring positive results, both for the TidyTowns and for the pupils themselves.

A recommendation worth considering, is the integration of your Tidy Town's three-year plan into a similar planning process for the Killaloe Community Council. The outcome would be of benefit in discussions with the Public and Private Sector organisations with which both the TidyTowns Committee and the Community Council are in contact.

This adjudicator would recommend that it is also worth considering, as a special project, how best to

“integrate the old and the new”, that is the ongoing new developments in Killaloe with the considerable wealth of existing Heritage buildings and of course its natural beauty.

A recommendation for your Town Map, which the submitted map lacked, is that street names are used and also places of interest and locations of activity of TidyTowns events would be inserted on the map. Killaloe itself would greatly benefit by the use of Street names on appropriate street signs.

I wish you all the best with your planned activities and also for the Feile Brian Boru in July.

The Built Environment:

One of the challenges facing Killaloe is to maintain a healthy balance between the commercial demands and the tourist/leisure and heritage needs of the town situated as it is on such a lovely location on the banks of the Shannon and Lough Derg. In general Killaloe is doing well with this balance. The business people in Killaloe cope well and their business premises are a credit to their owners.

Premises of note that continue to look well include; Reddans Bar, Brendan Graces, Derg Credit Union, Wood Brothers, John Crotty/An Siopa Beag, Italian Warehouse, with their vivid colour contrast which this adjudicator thought most striking and impressive. Heaneys Supermarket, Heaneys and also Walshs caught the eye. Also impressive were Derg House and the Palliser House. Everywhere the display of hanging baskets and other flower displays in full bloom was wonderful. Well done to all concerned. On the negative side other premises were in some cases partly derelict. Other sites were closed up and were not pleasing to the eye.

It is recommended that the inappropriate use of plastic on shopfronts should be discouraged.

The black individual lamp standards were attractive on Main Street.

The Kincora Hall Hotel and the Kincora Marina Apartments looked superb, excellent in layout and landscaping, good play area for children, litter free and with refuse bins. The Kincora Harbour Marina opened on 22nd August 2001 is an excellent facility and layout, good landscaping and litter free.

The Roman Catholic Church and the surrounding grounds were most impressive. The Cathedral Church of St.Flannan is a wonderful heritage. Other public buildings to impress include the Fire Station (noted the use of bilingual signs), the schools, The Garda Station.

It is recommended that Killaloe should examine the feasibility of having each street named and identified by the use of appropriate street signs. This adjudicator found the absence of signs a negative.

The celebration of Munster Rugby with the signs and displays and also that of Clare GAA is very appropriate.

Landscaping:

Well done to all involved in the various locations for good landscaping. Individual residential estates were well presented, e.g., Millstream and St. Lua's Villas. The Holiday Apartments/houses including Kincora Hall Hotel, Kincora Marine, Kincora Harbour, Harbour Village, are all in excellent condition and worth the visit. The floral displays throughout the town, in particular the hanging baskets were quite beautiful. Displays around the silver Birch trees opposite the Fire Station were a nice feature. The protection against cat litter was subtle and hopefully effective.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your plans to protect the habitat of the bat species is very worthwhile and will be watched with interest over the coming years. Also similar plans to get expert advice on the wild bird habitats is noted.

The excellent facility, while outside the town boundary, is a haven for wildlife and maybe could become a pilot project for study, the lessons and outcome of the study could be of use to all the schools and residents of Killaloe.

This adjudicator failed to find his way to Tobermurrugh. Are the signs, previously recommended, on display?

Litter Control:

The No Litter signs (bilingual) were in evidence in the town. In general Killaloe was litter free on the day of my visit. Litter bins were available. Well done to all.

The Spring Clean Up day is a wonderful initiative, congratulations to all. The involvement of local scouts is so worthwhile. The co-operation between your neighbours in Ballina and TidyTowns Killaloe is to be applauded.

Well Done.

The TidyTowns Stewardship Scheme is an excellent initiative. Its success is evident by the lack of litter throughout Killaloe.

One negative was, one week after the Referendum date, two Referendum posters (one Yes and one No) were to be seen on poles in the area near Kincora Harbour Marina.

The area Between the Waters is impressive and is capable of being even better presented.

Waste Minimisation:

The involvement of the three schools in the Green Flag Project is impressive. Well done to all concerned on achieving the Green Flag for the Boys National School.

Also well done on the achievement of the award of funding for the Bottle Bank Stewardship scheme, the Repak Bins and the Clothing recycle Bin are worthwhile, both at the area Between the Waters. Also noted at Ballycuggeran Beach. Also worthwhile is the green recycling bins for the use of Queallys SuperValu.

Tidiness:

A number of vacant sites in the town, e.g. next door to AIB and one opposite the bridge, could be improved. Signposting policy needs to be examined; conflicting messages emerge; advertising for commercial premises are not in keeping with signposts for heritage sites for example.

These are projects well worth additional attention over the coming months.

Residential Areas:

The impact of the changing face of Killaloe is seen in the many newer residential and holiday premises located on the waterfront and throughout the town. These are impressive.

The houses on Main Street opposite the Church are nicely painted, the streetscape looked well. The Harbour Village was impressive, nice three storey buildings, well-landscaped and tidy presentation. The older residences on Flannans Road looked well and offer further potential.

The Millstream residential area impressed, as did the nicely landscaped area with its railway sleepers protecting the planting and the Mountain Ash trees nicely protected also. The paved area is a nice feature. Congratulations to all concerned on the upkeep of this estate.

St. Lua's Villas is a well-set out cul-de-sac, tidy and litter free with well-maintained gardens. Well done.

The absence of street names is a negative.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The access roads were impressive from Ballina with the obvious advantage of the bridge which focuses attention on Killaloe, also from Tuamgraney with the wonderful vista of the Lake and the area around Ballycuggeran Beach. The Limerick road entrance was not as impressive.

Display signs for Failte/Welcome to Shannon's Lough Derg and Killaloe (noted bilingual) and the Killaloe/Ballina Heritage Town (also bilingual) are well set out.

The signs at Brian Boro's Fort entrance are noted, the existence of a good footpath into Killaloe is an advantage. Some need for weed/grass control along the kerbside.

The signage within the town and at the bridge needs to be examined regards usage. Directional signs are competing with signs for places of interest/heritage sites and commercial premises advertising. Some cleaning of signs is necessary.

Ballycuggeran Beach offers a wonderful facility to the residents of the area.

General Impression:

Killaloe is a superb location and congratulations to all involved in maintaining its natural and built beauty. Its

heritage is wonderful and needs to be protected from the negative aspects of road traffic and resulting potential damage.

The ongoing co-operation between the Local Authority, including the planning authorities, and the TidyTowns Committee requires constant attention for the benefits of Killaloe.

Congratulations on your 2008 entry to TidyTowns Competition and good luck for the future. I look forward to further visits to your wonderful town.