

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmihil** Ref: **75**
County: **Clare** Mark: **256**
Category: **B** Date(s): **08/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	21
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	256

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you Kilmihil Community Development for your entry on behalf of Kilmihil village to the 2008 TidyTowns Competition. Welcome to the competition and well done on your submission.

Thanks to your Committee of eight people who take the time and effort to attend your regular meetings, in addition to other TidyTowns events. Your Committee and partnership organisations are doing very worthwhile work for Kilmihil, a village with a population of less than 1,000 people. Well done to all concerned.

Thanks also for the detailed village map.

Your ongoing partnership work with organisations including, County Council, Fás, 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.

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

The Built Environment:

Kilmihil is a lovely village that has improved so much in recent years. Well done on your programme of activity that included the painting of townhouses in Church Street and the GAA Car Park and surrounds. The St Pats

AFC soccer pitch improvements have also benefited the overall environment.

Both Public and Private Buildings looked well on the day of my visit. These included: the Community Centre and Library which are painted with vibrant colours; The Church with the newly planted landscaped area; the Post Office; the Fergus Credit Union; Powers Pharmacy; D.McNamara; GAA grounds and the murals on the wall; the National School and its display of murals; Kildangan School Supplies; some lovely individual houses and the impressive residential estates. The Stations of the Cross Garden is quite unique and impressive.

For this adjudicator the overall complex of the Community Hall, the Library, the School, the GAA Grounds, plus of course both murals, is an exceptional facility in the heart of Kilmihil. It's a treasure to be guarded and maintained to the highest quality. The dumping of an old central heating radiator from one of these buildings at the back of the Community Centre was unfortunate.

Of course there are areas that could be improved, including the old Garage, painted blue, which now appears closed and in need of some renovation. There is also work in progress on residential estates which when completed will add to the overall positive environment of Kilmihil.

One area of improvement worth investigating is the possible removal of overhead wires and cables. This is not obviously an easy task but nonetheless an objective to discuss.

Landscaping:

The high standard set in the park area of St Michael's Place was continued this year. Well done to all involved. The Fairgreen wildlife meadow is a worthwhile feature. Some nice new areas of landscaping are a feature of the Church grounds. The floral display around the Community Centre complex with its wonderful vibrant colours was so uplifting. Both murals worked a treat to assist in the great display of colour. Well done on your efforts. Many residents have some wonderful planting in their excellent gardens. This work is to be praised. Also deserving praise is the landscaping at the car park area at Knockalough Lake.

Well done to all involved in the various locations for good landscaping in the individual elements that gel to make Kilmihil 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.

Overall, well done.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

My visit to the Knocklough Lake was most enjoyable on one of the very few fine days of the Summer. This area has such potential as a visitor attraction centre for locals and tourists. The work done to date is quite good, including wildlife habitat for the ducks; the nice landscaped area. I liked the Sweet P boat. Some wildlife Interpretative Panels on display would be really worthwhile.

The development of the Knocklough Lake project is to be encouraged.

Consider contact with the Heritage Council on these projects.

Kilmihil is well served by the development of an excellent footpath/road structure through the village. This is great for the walker, jogger and those people that appreciate these facilities. Some further potential for The Sli na Slainte walks perhaps?

The involvement of the schoolchildren in appropriate projects such as your Knocklough Lake and the area at Reilig Nua project is so very worthwhile.

Litter Control:

Kilmihil 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.

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,

The drawing up of a minimisation programme in association with the County Council is something to consider.

The Green Flag Schools Programme is a super programme. Well done to all involved in the retention by the School of its Green Flag again this year. The involvement of the private businesses and residents in recycling

initiatives is also to be congratulated.

Tidiness:

In general Kilmihil looked tidy on the day of my visit. There are of course always pockets of untidiness that could be better, parts of Church Street with the poor road surface looked untidy.

Residential Areas:

The older townhouses help retain the small village character and charm of Kilmihil 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. St Michael's Place continues to do well. Some individual new houses on the outskirts of the village are top quality with some magnificent gardens. Congratulations to all concerned on the upkeep of their residential areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach road from Ennis is good, the road surface in Church Street requires some immediate attention. It was good to see derelict buildings painted. As previously mentioned the overhead wires could be removed as a long-term project.

The village was in general clean and tidy with some nice landscaping by planted hanging baskets.

General Impression:

Congratulations to Kilmihil on your entry again to TidyTowns 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 look forward to further visits to your village