

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilworth** Ref: **297**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **266**
Category: **C** Date(s): **25/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	9
Tidiness	30	21
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	38
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	266

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to Kilworth for participating in the Tidy Towns Competition 2008 through your Village Renewal Committee. Thank you for the town map and especially for including the names of the streets on the map. This inclusion made it much easier for the adjudicator to find his bearings. Thank you also for the photos. It is a pity that you did not include your 3-5 Year Plan. If you do have one make sure to include it next year. It is evident that tremendous work has been done in Kilworth over the years and the inclusion of your plan would point up the direction you intend the village to take in the immediate to medium term. You have a big committee which shows that you have much support in the community. It would also help the adjudicator if you outline how this committee functions. A village the size of yours must engage in a meaningful way with local bodies and one is glad to see that this is happening. The input of the local schools can be most useful. What role does the school principal play in liaising between the school and your committee? Is the school attempting to attain Green Flag Status? Well done on your achievement with the playground. It looks wonderful and, most satisfying, it is being used.

The Built Environment:

An important element in the built heritage of Kilworth is the stone walls. This must be a village of stonemasons, one muses as one drives through. These impressive walls give definition to house fronts. Then there are the impressive stone fronts on many buildings as at Kilworth Cottage, as an example. The village centre is a gem, the once wide street astutely subdivided by landscaped areas to facilitate traffic flow and discreet parking. The information boards give a flavour of Kilworth from the 7th century. It is heartening to find a 'Slí na Sláinte' walk. The old Market House and the Church beside brings one back almost as far as the 7th century. The yellow paint on the arch is replicated to great effect on the fountains around the village. The blue Church looks well and so does the old building alongside and thankfully this heritage treasure is well maintained. One was not impressed by the treatment of many of the shop fronts and felt that they were out of

character with the heritage of the village, MV O'Brien's being an exception. A coat of paint would enliven some buildings and would freshen up the front wall of the Church. Inevitably there will be unoccupied buildings in a village like Kilworth and the more prominent the building the greater the regret and this is a real torment for your committee. The entrance to the GAA grounds is most impressive. The school also looks well. There is no point in pointing out the buildings that detract from your built environment as you are painfully aware of them.

Landscaping:

Efforts at landscaping are to be witnessed wherever one travels in the village. Protruding walls have been softened by colourful planting. Flower barrels full of summer colour bring interest to long walls. The landscaping and bench at John Daly Terrace have a relaxing effect on the area. The landscaping on the way in to town from Molly Barry's Cross is most impressive. The picnic area is clean and adds to the welcoming atmosphere. The different levels of landscaping all the way in to Hanly's are a treat.

The treatment of the wall at Heaphy Grove I liked. Your tree planting deserves congratulations. In areas where there is a construction site or dereliction the eye might be deflected from what appears ugly by using flowers tubs or floral arrangements. The work at the Gallery is delightful and the tribute to Gearóid Towey a proud reminder of great deeds 'by one of our own'.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The landscaping that is being done by you certainly will promote wildlife habitats around the village. But this is a section in which you could improve your marks. Liaise with the school in this regard for the purpose of surveying the area for wildlife. There may be someone in the community who has a great interest in aspects of wildlife and whose only task on committee would be to research under this title and exploit the wildlife features of Kilworth.

Litter Control:

The litter pickers are certainly making an impact. There is very little litter evident. But, as is so often the case, there was some litter around the Bring Bank. You might now consider a more proactive approach to litter. Along with cleaning up you might set out targets to reduce the litter created in the community. Survey the black spots and identify the main culprit groupings. There was no evidence of dumping around the village.

Waste Minimisation:

Well done on the Bring Bank. You say under this section that you took part in the Cork Co Community Litter Challenge. That entry should be made in the litter section. Note that this section is about reducing waste, the measures being taken in the committee to recycle, reuse, segregate, compost. When you have litter clean ups is the litter segregated? During the winter some of your committee might study the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. It would stimulate waste minimisation projects.

Tidiness:

The new footpaths bring a defined and tidy appearance to places. Generally signs are well maintained. The signage at the sports complex is particularly worthy of note. The bilingual street signs are most welcome and attractive. As one comes into Kilworth from Pound Lane the cables across the skyline become particularly obvious. One hopes that there will be an opportunity to bury these wires at some stage. The Cois Coille skyline looks so clear by comparison. Keep an eye out for unnecessary or garish signage for instance, do Sherry Fitzgerald need to announce the three detached houses so loudly? There were some weeds on the R667 though one is reluctant to mention them in view of all the work done.

Residential Areas:

Most of the residents of Kilworth do their best to add to the colour and vibrancy of the village, many using floral displays to great effect. On Pound Lane the houses look resplendent. The new estate off the centre will be a haven in time and is beautifully landscaped. Brennan's Place is announced by its personalised name stone which befits the proud surroundings. The houses look very well but the gate across the road detracts from this lovely picture. The sprinkle of marigolds bring a dash of summer, even on a rainy day. Páirc na gCapall still has a new feel to it. The open spaces, car parking and landscaping suggest that this will be a jewel in a few years. Well done on the tree planting. Cois Coillte is more settled and also impressive. Heaphy Grove is a delight. Your new birches look majestic and the houses full of charm. One must not forget the John Daly Estate from the far off 30's, or maybe earlier, still looking colourful. There are a few estates on

the R667 which will in time get name stones too, one hopes.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Even motorists on the N72 who have never visited Kilworth must have noticed the landscaping at the entry points to the village. From the moment one leaves the N72 the village is defined by the landscaping and the walls that lead one gracefully into the heart of the village. The cut stone wall around the planted trees looks very welcoming and creates an impression of a 'cared for' place immediately. Add to this the stone proclaiming Molly Barry's Cross and depicting the anvil and one's expectations rise further. The Kilworth sign is neatly landscaped in a flower bed aglow with colour. Another 100 meters up the road and we are greeted by the pictorial sign for Kilworth. A great start and while not as spectacular on other approaches the welcome is there. Likewise one is made welcome from the Brennan's Place approach to town. All approach roads, Bothar Antaine, Coach Road are impressive but more attention could be given to the second road from the N72.

General Impression:

One could be none other than impressed by the work that is ongoing in Kilworth. It is a beautiful village with a village centre that is full of interest. But as life changes so does the appearance of the village and you are most vigilant in your work. In this regard. include your 3-5 year plan with next year's submission and that will also improve your marks.