

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kiskeam** Ref: **654**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **265**
Category: **A** Date(s): **10/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	36
The Built Environment	50	39
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	265

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to Kiskeam Development Association for participating in the Tidy Towns Competition 2008. Thank you for your informative Entry Form and for the map which was most helpful. Your 3 Year Plan should help focus your efforts. The adjudicator senses a frustration with the amount of work required to maintain the approaches to Kiskeam. Even a hard working committee needs the support of the local agencies so maybe the support of Fas and the County Council needs to be redefined. Kiskeam is a beautiful village in which great work has been done over the years and it is heartening that your committee is now addressing the possibilities that the river presents to both resident and visitor alike. One looks forward to the fruits of your ambitious aspirations for the amenity walk.

The Built Environment:

A drive down the street of Kiskeam is like an odyssey through time. Modern houses take the place of busy stores of another age. The large windows of the older houses once displayed goods required by the people of that time. The art work on the building half way down the street is a montage of the activities of previous generations. The street represents decay and renewal, all at once. Old and young looked beautiful in the June sunshine. The presence of the Gaeilge is a signal that the community values their rich heritage. The adjudicator felt that the brightly painted cottage overlooking the Peace Park was a shining example of the pride that householders felt in their homes and their locality. All of the public buildings look well. The Community Centre deserves special mention as its size makes it a real challenge to maintain so well. The adjudicator loved the stone walls and felt that 'Classy Places' signalled that one is entering somewhere special.

Landscaping:

The present committee are fortunate that previous committees have done wonderful work in landscaping your village. A challenge for you is to maintain and renew the endeavours of those earlier committees, for instance the shrubbery at the corner leading up to the cemetery and the garden from 1997 are now in need of attention.. The fence in front of the Riverside Drive estate may be in situ for a long time. Its effect could be softened by placing flower tubs in front. The village is blessed by having beautifully landscaped house fronts and long hedge rows. The Peace Park area and the Grotto are gems and a credit to all. That bridge area is a marvellous introduction to Kiskeam, followed then by the wonderful sculpture of the Cailleach herself. The approach from the other side needs thought despite the efforts of 'Classy Places'.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The lush hedges and trees together with the river are the main focus of the Wildlife and Natural Amenities of Kiskeam. It is good that you are now directing your efforts at the possibilities of the river. In your 3 Year Plan there is very little mention of your plans with regard to this section. A pity. Suggestions would be to liaise with a wildlife agency and to engage the school pupils to do a wildlife survey of the area.

Litter Control:

It is clear that your committee is making a priority of litter control and your efforts are paying off. Your village is largely free of litter. Continue to pursue the Green Flag for the school. Your participation in the North Cork anti litter competition shows your commitment to keeping Kiskeam litter free. It is noted that your 3 Year Plan does not mention Litter Control.

Waste Minimisation:

The achievement of the Green Flag for the school would be a help in creating a Waste Minimisation mind set for your community. Apart from that initiative there is very little mention of this section of your plans. It could help you to study the booklet 'Race Against Waste' and so create an awareness of the value of composting, for example, in your community.

Tidiness:

Neat and well maintained shop and house fronts help to contribute to an air of tidiness in the village. The new path up to Moylan Park and the new walls, though yet a work in progress, also contribute. The stone walls and trimmed hedges add to the tidy aspect. The road margins, coming from Boherbue side especially, do not proclaim your village. The welcome stone at the bridge could be replicated at the far end of the village. Weeds growing on kerbs are a problem in places and need constant attention. The fence at the front of the new estate, though inevitable and unavoidable, is a black spot. The entrance to the site adjacent to the Peace Park is another black spot. The gates and general appearance of the area detract from the great work of your committee. The skyline of the village is not cluttered with criss cross wiring and you should insist that your skyline remain like that.

Residential Areas:

All private residences combine in design and colour to give Kiskeam its own special appeal. Moylan Park does need some attention. The open green area in front of the estate needs urgent and continuing attention. The lane from the main road to the cemetery gives a sense of times past and though many of the buildings are unoccupied they do not take from the lived in buildings. It is a beautiful link road.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Mention has been made of the approach roads and more attention to the Boherbue approach, especially definition of the verges, could give a better impression of Kiskeam. The area around the cemetery and the Community Centre is well maintained and appropriately painted. The path by Moylan Park may have to be extended in time in order to make your river route safer and more accessible.

General Impression:

The realisation of your plans for the Peace Park is a great achievement and should encourage your committee to new projects and greater things. Renewing what you have inherited from previous committees is now a priority. Kiskeam is a credit to the imagination and pride of its residents and also to its Tidy Towns Committee.

