

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcock** Ref: **748**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **220**
Category: **D** Date(s): **08/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	24
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	220

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Kilcock to TidyTowns 2008 and your colourful five year report from 2008 and 2012. We notice your plans contain liaison work with Kildare County Council, work to the Square and the Royal Meadow G.A.A ground.

The committee has twelve members, and six volunteers. They are in contact with Kildare County Council, Musgrave's Supermarket, the G.A.A and the Kildare Sport's Council. They also have a newsletter, together with articles in the local press.

Well done on the plans for the Irish Open Championships on 6-7 September, which we hope goes well for you.

The Built Environment:

The principal work done this year was finalisation of School Street and the Square, with beautiful new paving, including stainless steel planters, together with litter bins and bollards. The Square has also been pedestrianised attractively, with high quality paving. This is a well-presented and highly successful scheme. One rider however are the semi-mature trees which should be supported by stakes to prevent vandalism. The fair-green on the other side of the bridge over the canal and railway is however, still disappointing because of its use as an all day car park.

We note your concern that further development of the car park should be agreed before work is undertaken.

The bridge is of a good quality stone and very high and steep. It is difficult for wheelchair access.

The lockside Walk is very attractive and provides for access to the Canal Bank. The St. Coca's Church is very well presented and maintained, as is the Presentation Convent next door.

The G.A.A grounds were beautifully maintained and a fine modern building has been constructed. The Athletic Club was also beautifully maintained.

Well done on the Heritage trail and you have a great number of historical buildings in the town. Schools were well presented and bi-lingual signs and the housing developments were prevalent throughout the town.

There is also a fine timber faced building used as the canoe club on the side of the Fair Green, which attracted the attention of the adjudicator. There are many derelict sites in the town and some are old buildings on the Enfield roads, which are important. The bubble gum factory should be screened. The Courthouse (c. 1950's) near Fair Green has become dilapidated.

Landscaping:

The canal bank on both sides of the river was partially landscaped and the Millennium Jubilee Garden was attractively planted and has interesting good quality sculptures. The roundabouts on the motor way approach were beautifully landscaped. Generally this approach was well maintained with only some areas needing attention. It was noted that there was Silver Birch on the roundabout approach, and this was very attractive. We welcome your plans for planting of Kildare County Council land at Brayton Park. Screening by planting is required between the canal and the road from Fair Green. This road is very untidy and formed a poor entrance to housing estates along its length. Particularly admired was planting on the Clane Road. The landscaping of the G.A.A grounds was beautiful.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The location of the town on the canal bank gives an ideal location for wildlife, being a natural habitat for fish and birds. The fishing on the canal will provide recreation in beautiful surroundings. We note your intention to provide a habitat survey and with the result of it being published soon. There are also plans for a 'Sli na Slainte' walk, again in beautiful surroundings. We also notice that areas on the canal are allowed to grow long grass to encourage habitation.

Litter Control:

On the day of the inspection the adjudicator visited, the town was almost litter-free. This is to be commended. It is great to see that you have community involvement in the annual spring clean and regular tidy ups over spring and summer.

The bring bank was in the G.A.A grounds and was on the whole, very clean

Waste Minimisation:

It is fantastic to note that your local national School have linked programmes to the Green School Project. We would recommend that you carry out a waste audit described in the Race Against Waste booklet. You should perhaps organise a Seminar to inform yourselves, local residents and businesses as to what can be achieved in this area. Waste Minimisation is much more than recycling.

Tidiness:

There is severe clutter on the Enfield Road and this needs to be cleaned up, including the bubble gum factory area and the garage in front. The best hope for the town is the removal of through traffic. Cleary's Hardware is also an eyesore which needs screening.

Outside of the derelict areas on the Fair Green side of the canal there are good roads and roundabouts which are neat and tidy with good boundaries on the Naas road. There is also a cleverly disguised ruined cottage near the roundabout. The Enfield Road roundabout is in good order and well planted. Public signs in the main are clean and good, but some cases need repair. The area on the far side of the canal called Connaught Street is also very untidy, with dilapidated buildings backing onto the Canal, and some dereliction, and the road is unkempt, as is the roadside end of the entrance to the new housing estate.

Residential Areas:

The estates generally on the south side of the canal are excellent in presentation including landscaping throughout with attractive greens and well planted gardens. This appears to be an enormous development. Chapel View is particularly good, and Abbeyfield, an older estate is well established with an attractive entrance.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach road from Enfield is very untidy with a mix of derelict buildings on both sides with clutter. The canal side approach from Maynooth is a good entrance approach, except for the garage, which requires tidying, softening and screening. The Dunshaughlin approach is much neater and well trimmed. A traffic

reduction plan would benefit the town, as would a reduction in Square parking.

General Impression:

Kilcock is located in an enviable canal location. It has great potential with a good historic base. The fact that it is now free of through traffic will hopefully allow it to progress in an imaginative way to restore the old heart of the town. The extremely good work done on School Street and the Square is a good start.