

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Piltown** Ref: **299**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **261**
Category: **B** Date(s): **18/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	15
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	261

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you your comprehensive and very well expressed answers to the questionnaire on the entry form. Curiously, your map was less than adequate and led to some confusion: next year can you please write in the names of all sites that should be visited, including housing estates, and try to get the scale a little more accurate! – incidentally, most committees use the Ordnance Survey A4-size local place sheets and write their own additional information onto them. Piltown is changing from a pretty village into a fine town; it is good to see the traditional features retained, undoubtedly on account of the work of the Keep Piltown Tidy committee, and to see that new developments are well planned, and maintained in first class order. You do well on your approach to Development, Buildings, Landscaping, Litter Control and Roads, but not quite so well on some of the others categories; it would be good to see a substantial increase in marks under Wild Life, Waste Management and Tidiness in the coming years. Congratulations on you achievements to date.

The Built Environment:

Kildalton College impressed tremendously – well done to Teagasc for the beautifully preserved gates, balustrades, urns, glazing bars and the facade of the main building (though the extension on the left is a disappointment); the charming Victorian lodge adjacent was seen to be well maintained. The same may be said of the two churches. The Ponsonby Tower is now happily surrounded by attractive stonework in its roundabout. Anthony's Inn makes first rate use of handsome old street houses in its conspicuous location, increasing the status to the street. Of business premises, Costcutter is also smartly presented. The Garda station is well looked after. Opposite the Glanbia depot an interesting old industrial building has been allowed to become dishevelled: some thought needs to be given to this by its owners. The old Post Office has been preserved most charmingly. The house opposite the Credit Union looked well. Somehow the lodge at Millmount, given on your list of protected structures, was missed on our walk.

Landscaping:

The gardens and planted spaces in the neighbourhood of Hillcrest Park are the most impressive landscaping project in the town. The little bridge with its planted surrounds opposite the Leinster Way sign demonstrates tasteful design and careful maintenance. Among others, there is excellent planting on the road between the town centre and Kilbarton Close. The GAA Park and the Showgrounds looked well. The approach avenue to Kildalton should also be considered under this heading – there is a wonderful sense of the continued tradition of 18th century open landscaping in the original sense of the term.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The designation of the area of the river near the Garda station as 'zoned for ecology' seems ideal: on your next entry form please tell us more about this as you may be due additional marks. It is good to read that you have placed bird boxes – please give more information on items of this kind which may not be readily observable on adjudication day. The cleaning of the Pill River is a great step forward.

Litter Control:

There was very little disposable litter in Piltown on adjudication day, and there were no litter 'black spots'. Congratulations on the community effort.

Waste Minimisation:

The Bring Centre is very central and was looking well cared for. The improvements which you reported last year were impressive. Your achievement under this heading is well in advance of the national average.

Tidiness:

With the exception of the area around Glanbia and the derelict cottage opposite Centra which had very visible rubbish in its garden, there were no really untidy areas; but these need attention. The Campus filling station could do with some tidying-up. Taken as a whole, Piltown is a Tidy Town.

Residential Areas:

The older houses and terraces in the town centre are what give Piltown its real flavour. A few were seen to be in need of repair. Attractive cottages with dormers (opposite Centra) were seen to be undergoing improvements. The charming fairly recent terrace of coloured houses in Main Street caught the eye: now that there is less traffic the town centre will be a more attractive place to live, so more of this kind of domestic building, as infill on vacant and open sites for example, should be considered, rather than new and even more remote estates. An un-named and newish well-planted estate near the tower looked well and another in course of construction looked promising. Construction appeared to have stopped on new houses near Glanbia. Banagher Court will be very fine when the trees grow up; an un-named estate opposite looked mature and well kept. Hillcrest and the housing in the quarter is exemplary of its kind.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Good road surfaces were noted throughout. The by-pass appears to have taken the heavy traffic out of the residential and business areas to their advantage. The tower roundabout seems to be a great success. Verges, paths and traffic-calming bumps in several places are a distinct improvement. Many excellent stone boundary walls were seen. The car park at the back of Anthony's was well marked-out and clean.

General Impression:

It was a real pleasure to revisit Piltown after a space of some years. Probably progress seems slow to those involved, but to the outsider the improvements are numerous, successful and impressive. It is hoped that some of the comments given above will be helpful in your further endeavours, the results of which will be eagerly looked forward to. All good wishes to the Keep Piltown Tidy Committee – you are certainly living up to your name.