

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kinlough** Ref: **433**
County: **Leitrim** Mark: **218**
Category: **B** Date(s): **02/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	24
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	13
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	218

Overall Development Approach:

Kinlough is welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition in this its 50th anniversary year. Thank you for your submission, we note the absence of planned work programme and urge you to submit at least a plan summary each year. The village is very much a work and progress with a sewage scheme being installed and many incomplete. The committee appears to have involved all sectors of the community, well done on this and on the schools participation in the Green Schools Programme. Congratulations on securing funding from the Arigna LEADER group as well as local business. It is good to note that although you only have 10 committee members clean-up evenings and activities can involve a lot more people.

The Built Environment:

The town centre features nicely painted two-storey buildings many with nice shopfronts, it was good to note that there is very little offensive plastic signage however do have a word with shop owners regarding the positioning of posters in their windows and doors as these can spoil a good presentation. The majority of buildings are well presented and the school looked wonderful having been freshly painted. The presentation of the Undertaker/Public House premises was excellent particularly to its gable wall and it would be considered for a shopfront award if the plastic beer sign was removed or replaced with something more attractive. We wish you success in your plan to takeover the Bottle Bank area and also for the construction of a natural stone wall at the Grotto; we acknowledge the postponement of your plans at the Gubacreeeny site at the present time.

Landscaping:

Simpson's Garage is neatly presented however it does need better enclosure and landscaping to its curtilage

area, the flower display in the whitewashed tyre here looks well; this is an important site being situated on the entrance to the village. The curtilage of the Community Centre should also be landscaped. We acknowledge your intention to plant trees and shrubs at the end of the summer and look forward to seeing the fruit of this work in next year's adjudication. Well done on the maintenance of flower displays. The two cypress trees marking the entrance to the cemetery are breathtaking in their magnificence. The granite seat and planters at the top of the main street is a fine visual amenity development.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The sports grounds beside the Community Centre is neatly presented. The Forest Walk development is eagerly anticipated and hopefully will be enhanced with a nature trail detailing the flora and fauna of the area, it should be signposted from the village centre. The goal under this heading is to establish existing wildlife in order to protect it in the event of future development and also to promote wildlife awareness and appreciation throughout the Community, any activities in this regard should be included in your entry form details. Perhaps the suggested wildlife survey/nature trail could be undertaken with the participation of the local school.

Litter Control:

Litter control was to a high standard and your evening and weekly litter picks are acknowledged; well done also on the promotion of litter awareness throughout the town and in the school. Ensure that all litter collected is segregated for recycling, the importance of this cannot be over-emphasised

Waste Minimisation:

The adjudicator wonders about the positioning of the Bring Bank on a site near a bend in the road with a wall which hinders visibility on leaving the site, have there been accidents here in the past? We note that the committee is currently working with Cavan County Council to take over the maintenance of the Bottle Bank site no doubt it will then be landscaped to a high standard and hopefully the owner of the site behind will be encouraged to upgrade the gates here. Well done to the school for their involvement in the Green Flag Programme and the segregation of waste for landfill. Ultimately a waste audit should be undertaken with a view to decreasing the amount of waste produced by the community.

Tidiness:

We wish you every success with the removal of the service poles at the entrance to Kinlough from the Manor Hamilton Road. Your work on the maintenance of footpaths in a weed-free condition has not gone unnoticed well done. The overall appearance of Kinlough was one of tidiness which is a fine achievement given the number of development sites where work is in progress.

Residential Areas:

Use of natural stone in roadside boundary walls to residential properties is an attractive feature in the village. Residential properties are well presented overall and many new developments are coming on stream, all have been finished to a high standard while those in which work is still in progress will no doubt be well-finished also. We note your concern regarding the poor take-up off new dwellings and the problem of attracting commuting residents into the competition but applaud your activities in this regard. Well done on the formation of new Resident Associations.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Road surfaces are generally good and work-in-progress was noted on the hard shoulder at the southern entrance to the village and elsewhere; the plans for an upgrade at the Manor Hamilton/Gubacreeny entrance are acknowledged. Roadside verges are well maintained throughout. An attractive roadside boundary is suggested for the Co-op premises to bring it to the same standard as that achieved at the school.

General Impression:

Transition periods are always difficult to negotiate however the committee appears to be rising to the new challenges faced. Good luck for the future! Kinlough is an attractive village with much to offer residents and visitors.