

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killyon-Hill of Down** Ref: **510**
County: **Meath** Mark: **214**
Category: **A** Date(s): **29/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	29
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	13
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	24
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	24
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	214

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to Killyon-Hill of Down Community Development Association for participating in the Tidy Towns Competition 2008. Thank you for your submission and for your map which was vital to the adjudicator in identifying places that should be visited. It is a pity that you did not include a 3-5 year plan. If you do not have one the exercise of compiling such a plan would enable you to set immediate and medium term targets for yourselves, would help you decide which local bodies and agencies would assist you with your various projects. As all projects need funding you would set down in your plan how you propose to fund these various projects. As well as that there are marks involved! You seem to have much support in the community. You mention that you engage with Meath County Council but you neglect to mention other bodies that you are seeking assistance from but which are later mentioned. It is wonderful that your school has achieved Green Flag Status and that you are actively involved with the school. Long may community spirit flourish in this beautiful part of Meath.

The Built Environment:

The Churches, both modern and heritage, tell us much about the character of the area. The modern Church is a credit to all involved in its maintenance and the maintenance of the surrounding site. Even the cemetery wall suggested a warm welcome. Every effort is being made to preserve the old Church and to present it well with pillars, gate and railings looking resplendent. There is urgent need to repair the roof. It would be a shame to allow it deteriorate further so keep the pressure on whatever bodies will assist with funding. The memory of the Fever Hospital was honoured with a plaque in 1997. It now merits more care. Even to improve the gate would improve the neglect that is evident. The canal area or village centre is attractively presented with all buildings adding to the magic. The Post Office and pub look very well. Bridges throughout are among the main heritage buildings of the area. They look spectacular at Hill of Down but pay attention to the ivy. Ivy is a problem in the case of many of your village treasures. The famine

hospital would benefit from removal of that ivy and the bridge on the road to the school would reveal its beauty if the ivy were removed. The school looks well but would benefit from some paint. The landscaping around the school certainly enhances it. There appears to be some work being done at Halla Finin Naofa and the appearance of the surrounding site will improve when the work is done. The entrance gate to the GAA pitch looks very well. In an area as big as yours with two village names involved it would be great if there were some identifying stamp or brand. A suggestion would be to use the gates in the two areas as a brand. If they were to be painted in a certain style it would bring continuity. Of course if they all had a similar design that would be awesome but aspirational
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Landscaping:

Where areas have been landscaped they look very well. But the main part of the landscaping has been done by nature over the years. The whole area can boast of proud trees and hedging. The hedges are sometimes wild but well maintained and sometimes cultivated but always varied and full of eye catching interest. Individual house owners have added their dash of colour with their landscaping. It is a good idea to landscape around the Killyon village signs. The picnic area is a superb amenity and deserves to be termed a picnic area rather than a lay-by. In fact its presence could be better advertised somewhere along the road. It would benefit the area of the Church if some screening were introduced around the enterprise there. The Hall area is also made more attractive by the landscaping at the front. It is an opportunity lost to allow the parish pump look so forlorn. A coat of paint and some landscaping would make a feature of it. The landscaping around the centre of Hill of Down is a joy, well designed, uplifting summer colour and the whole site maintained proudly.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Killyon-Hill of Down has to be a natural wildlife haven. It possesses all of the elements on which varied wildlife would thrive. The canal adds a further dimension to your riches. There are no wildlife information boards in evidence. There is an old iron fixture by the canal that suggests there was a board there once. Now an eyesore it needs to be replaced with up to date information on the birds and fish of the area. There may be people in your community who have an informed interest in wildlife and who would be willing to assist you with this section of the competition. The signposting at Canal Walk is confusing. The private property sign suggests that one should not pass beyond it while the signs at the bridge tell us of the walk. This walk would be more accessible if there were an information board to lead one along the way. There is great potential for you in this section.

Litter Control:

It is good the read that you are informing yourselves on the litter problem. Well done on the litter awareness signs also. There was very little litter to be seen, except around the hall area. There is an urgent need for bins. The adjudicator thinks that only one bin was encountered during the visit.

Waste Minimisation:

It is heartening to come across the Green Flag fluttering in the breeze outside the school. Well done to all concerned. This Green Flag Status shows that the school is making an effort with regard to waste minimisation. This good practice will filter through to the community also. In your submission you state that you promote waste minimisation in the community. What do you mean by this? It could benefit your committee to study the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. It would stimulate new waste elimination projects for you.

Tidiness:

There is a sense of tidiness throughout. Where road margins are being cut they are being cut regularly in most cases. It is a good idea to cut the verge and leave the rest to nature. There may be an opportunity to bury the cables at some time in the future. If that opportunity occurs grasp it. Care should be taken of signposts throughout. Many need painting while others need to be washed. There are most attractive signs for the walking trail which add to excitement of the bridge area.

Residential Areas:

The owners of the houses throughout present their properties with pride and much varied colour. In many cases it is clear that they take responsibility for the areas adjacent to their dwellings in order to landscape and maintain those areas. Well done.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

No village sign was found on the roadside for Hill of Down. This seems to be a pity. There is little room for pathways along the road in places but there are places where a pathway would help. Mention was made in last year's report on speed limits. What is the present situation? A lot of work is now apparent on the grass verges.

At times the road surfaces need some attention.

General Impression:

There is great credit due to the people who enter Killyon-Hill of Down in this competition. It shows that they care about the appearance of their area and wish to promote the quality of life therein. You are engaging with agencies whose assistance you need. But it is also true that you are not standing idly by. It was a pleasure to visit and experience your rich heritage.