

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Kilskyre** Ref: **1208**  
County: **Meath** Mark: **244**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **15/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	39
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	22
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>244</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you for your completed entry form, splendid array of photographs with captions and the most useful map. It was a real pleasure to visit Kilskyre and we were most impressed with the extent of volunteer action in progress during our visit. We counted no less than 19 volunteers all working at various project throughout the community. The curbing looked very well throughout the centre and the trees are maturing well. The Picnic table at the corner is a delight but may not be in the most practical location for this purpose. We welcomed sincerely the splendid heritage trail and especially the indicated walking times for each item. This is a tremendous inducement for visitors. The work on walls, verges, hedges and even the pathway to the old cemetery were all noted with approval. The special tractor mounted machine for watering the many hanging baskets is quite an innovation. Our experience during the visit was the very essence, the ideal expression of a TidyTowns community in action. Our congratulations to each and every member of your committee for their commitment and wonderful sense of engagement.

### **The Built Environment:**

The presentation of the school was a real delight. From the orderly In and Out for dropping pupils to the truly delightful display of the gardens with its benches, herbaceous borders, murals on the shelter, many hanging baskets on the building itself and the display of flowers on either end of the car park. The fine old school building opposite the church, not currently in use need an alternative present day role to insure its fine potential impact is not lost to the village. The presentation of the Catholic Church and especially the grounds are excellent. We noted substantial numbers of volunteers working during the day of adjudication. The Teachta Fáda Lounge looked well while the site of the old Post Office on Crossakiel Road was suitably presented. It wasn't clear if the Post Office on the Kells road is still operational.

### **Landscaping:**

The GAA Grounds were attractively presented especially the front facing wall. We welcomed the hanging baskets and the pleasant extent of painting. The monument to Richard Carlon caught the eye. Congratulation on the very fine mural which now decorates the gable end of Shaws Building. The work in progress on the old graveyard and church ruin, a major undertaking, has been achieved with considerable success. The raised flowerbeds at the Whitecross junction used dry fill stone wall techniques to very good effect. The work on the Holy Well on the Clonmellon Road is of considerable interest and we look forward to seeing the completed project in due course. Your plans to highlight the old milk stand are applauded and progress eagerly awaited. The use of railway sleepers to surround the excellent planting at the corner and on the little island at this junction together with the shrubs and hedges opposite and the tree planting collectively make for a splendid introduction to the village.

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Development in this regard are centred it appears within the schools. While this is commendable it is suggested that other locations be assessed for their suitability as bird and wildlife habitat. Areas for example within the old cemetery suggest themselves and perhaps on the site of the old school. Discuss the options with a local bird life enthusiast and keep the requirements of wildlife in mind when selecting plants and shrubs in these areas especially.

#### **Litter Control:**

Having regard to the extent of your litter patrols and the general high sense of civic engagement and responsibility we would have been disappointed to note litter. It is good to report that litter was not an issue in the village and our compliments to all involved. Clearly the litter patrol are having their effect while the new comers are accepting and adopting your policy on litter management.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

Congratulation to the school on retaining its Green Flag Status. We noticed the solar panels powering the 'School Ahead' signs. The garden in the school contained many items all under scoring the reasons for and the value of reversing global warming. It is to be hoped that the lessons and principals established here will percolate out through the community in general.

#### **Tidiness:**

The abandoned house at the corner is indeed a pity and the resolution of this difficulty might take some time. Grasses were well cut throughout the village that plus the extent of curbs makes for a neat and orderly impression. The repair to stone walls, the much enhanced presentation of the old cemetery and the approach road to it are all strong positives in an excellent presentation.

#### **Residential Areas:**

The excellent individual house on the Kells Road were very well presented and complements to the various gardeners. The house stock generally is not extensive but it is very well presented and contributes its share to an overall pleasant vista.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

A number of the signs approach the village need attention. On the Kells Road the name plate is very tiny and needs washing. There is a directional sign but it is very dirty and battered and the 60kpm sign are quite in need of washing. On the Crossakiel Road the 80 kpm signs are grand while the 50kpm sign require to be washed and is somewhat obscured by vegetation. The Killallon Road is very well swept, the verges are suitable cut back, the trees along the wide verge on left continue right to the end of the long straight. This makes an excellent introduction. Some 3 or 4 of the trees seem to have died and could with advantage be replaced. We welcomed especially the delightful small black signs indicating the various items of interest at the junction.

#### **General Impression:**

Your village is a credit to all those involved in its splendid presentation. The extensive tree planting project of last year has left a permanent and growing legacy throughout the village, especially valuable due to the activities of the children who were involved in their planting. What a good idea to put their names and the names of the tree sponsors in a tube as a miniature time capsule buried beside each tree.

All involved in this splendid presentation are thanked sincerely for their efforts, applauded for their success and wish well in 2009. Your centre exudes the very essence of the Tidy Towns concept.

