

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Killeigh** Ref: **596**  
County: **Offaly** Mark: **256**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	38
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	36
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>256</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Killeigh Residents/Development Association is welcome to the 2008 competition. Many thanks for your completed application form which was useful on the day. A map would have been helpful and you should submit one with next year's application. You would appear to have a successful working relationship with local businesses, as well as local bodies such as the county council, Wider Option Offaly and Tullamore Credit Union. You would also appear to have a good relationship with the local schools - would it be possible to increase this support by means of getting the school children themselves more involved. It was disappointing to note that you feel that you get little interest in your work from local residents. Have you considered getting local schoolchildren more involved and recruiting among the new residents of the village? Other towns and villages find that internal awards and competitions such as gardens and shopfront competitions are successful in this regard.

### **The Built Environment:**

The modern church looked well. The national school looked well but some red staining was evident to its walls which should be tackled before next year's competition. The entrance to the GAA grounds was neat although some staining was evident to the wall of the car park leading from it. In terms of commercial premises Langtons, Doyles and the post office all looked fresh. There are some attractive vernacular buildings at the entrance on the Tullamore side including the lovely forge. The old cemetery in the vicinity of the school looked extremely well and the Church of Ireland is most attractive. We look forward to seeing the completion of the Mick the Miller Memorial on the Village Green. This should provide a good focal point for the village.

### **Landscaping:**

This is an aspect of the competition that you obviously relish. The village green looked magnificent and was

beautifully maintained. New trees were admired on the Tullamore Road and the grassy area in this location was admired. There were two attractive open spaces on the Mountmellick Road – a gravelled area and a grassy area both of which were maintained to the highest standards. There was attractive planting to the car park area opposite the school and in front of the school itself. The landscaping along the roads to wells was also very good. The ongoing maintenance of areas such as the green areas is laudable, as is the planting of shrubs and flowers. You should consider a tree planting programme of native trees and hedgerows. Permanent planting for year-round effect is also important, rather than relying purely on colourful floral displays, and you have certainly succeeded in this regard.

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

The ongoing maintenance of the green area and the Seven Blessed Wells nature trail is laudable but it was disappointing to note that you had no planned projects in regard to this category of the competition. Have you considered doing a wildlife study of habitats in the locality? You could involve local schoolchildren and from it develop a wildlife maintenance programme.

#### **Litter Control:**

There was some litter on approach roads but very little in the village centre apart from the very odd paper on the green at the curved wall. However, there were more papers evident at the recycling area unfortunately. It was disappointing to note that few people get involved in your litter evenings.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

The success of the National School in the Green Flags Programme is laudable-congratulations to all involved. Good luck with the energy efficiency award.

#### **Tidiness:**

The village generally has a neat and ordered appearance but there were one or two minor problem areas. Some dereliction was evident opposite the green. A few weeds were evident to the kerbsides on the Mountmellick Road and to the graveyard boundary wall which was otherwise very neat in presentation. There appeared to be building materials such as fill at strategic places along the Mountmellick Road – were these intended for future work or had they been left behind following work, in which case they should be removed once construction work has taken place? Your work with local businesses appears to be successful and paying dividends. Some graffiti was noted in the handball alley on green.

#### **Residential Areas:**

There was a very attractive house opposite the green with roses around the door. The new houses with stone boundary walls beyond the school were admired and under construction on the day. Also on this road there was an attractive traditional house angled to the road, with its original timber sash windows, fan-light over the door, wrought iron gateway and magnificent grounds and this was greatly admired. We were pleased to note that the new estate has been designed with careful consideration being given to boundary treatment and pathways.

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

The Mountmellick Road was a little overgrown although the nice overhanging mature trees were admired. The Tullamore Road was in very good condition as was the road to the Seven Blessed Wells of Killeigh which looked magnificent – it had been resurfaced and sported some very well maintained grassy verges. The road surfaces were generally in very good condition. Work to the bridge at the Abbey is commendable.

#### **General Impression:**

Killeigh is a most attractive centre and you have achieved remarkable results considering the lack of interest you feel you have by the local community! Imagine the work that could be done with more help!