

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kinnitty** Ref: **294**  
County: **Offaly** Mark: **244**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **12/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	36
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>244</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Kinnitty Tidy Towns Committee is welcome to the 2008 competition. Many thanks for your completed application form and clear neat map which were both very useful on the day. Kinnitty Environmental Action Plan made interesting reading and seems sensible and practical. You have a clear understanding of the village's unique historical significance which is always a pleasure to see. You obviously have a good working relationship with local community groups such as Foroige, Slieve Bloom Rural Development Group, GAA etc. which is all to the good in terms of the ongoing development of the area. The guided walks of the locality sound like a well worthwhile project. You would appear to have a large committee for the size of the village which is beneficial in terms of sharing out the workload. We were pleased to note that there is a high level of local community spirit in the village.

### The Built Environment:

The popularity of Kinnitty Castle has made a big impact on this category of the competition as many B&B's have opening in this village which will contribute well to this category of the competition – of note being Aaron House, Ardmore B&B with its wonderful stone wall and Slieve Bloom B&B in the centre of the village. The entrance area to the castle itself looked well. Giltraps is a nice traditional shopfront with its unusual archway. Do ensure that you do not remove render to reveal the stonework below on the buildings that were intended to be rendered or plastered. This is not only incorrect from a conservation point of view but also can lead to problems with water penetration. The Catholic Church in stone and render set up on the hill addressing the village centre looked quite charming as did the stone Church of Ireland. The Garda Station was very fresh as was Glendines Bistro. The charming National School was very fresh with marvellous mature trees to the side. Plans for the development of the Mausoleum are commendable and the erection of an interpretive board were read of with interest and we look forward to seeing the results of your work. Be sure to consult the Heritage Council in this regard as they have guidelines for the conservation of graveyards. The development of the

Pound area also sounds like an interesting project.

### **Landscaping:**

The magnificent riverside area in the centre of the village is an attractive focal point to it. The well maintained open space to the estate on the Cadamstown Road was admired. Work was taking place on the Birr side of the village where the ditch with hedging on top had been cut back. Do ensure that you consider wildlife and bird nesting time when conducting work like this. The attractive village green area with its stream in the village centre was greatly admired. A stonewall surround to the pump was quite simple and this was well presented. There is scope for further development in this category of the competition. The erection of welcome signs is a good idea as approach roads give the visitor a first impression of the village. The painting of street furniture is a well worthwhile task. The encouragement of wildflowers on roadside verges is a welcome approach. The ongoing maintenance of the green areas is all to the good. The planting of year round plants and flowers on the Tullamore Road sounds like a well worthwhile task.

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

The biodiversity Econet project at Knockbarron Wood sounds like an interesting and worthwhile one.

### **Litter Control:**

The litter bin to the new housing estate on the Cadamstown Road was in bad condition and quite battered. It should be replaced. There were a few items of litter on the approach roads and more in the village centre. Even one or two pieces of litter can create a bad impression in a village of Kinnity's size. The encouragement of the local community in your clean ups is a welcome idea, particularly the inclusion of local residents groups and the youth club. The emptying of the litter bins as they become full is also well worthwhile.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The help you give to the National School in regard to the Green Flag initiative is worthwhile and we look forward to seeing the fruits of your community composting scheme.

### **Tidiness:**

Do discourage advertising hoardings on approach roads as they can give a rather cluttered appearance. Dead weeds were apparent to the kerbside at the housing estate on the Cadamstown Road and more weeds were evident to kerbs on the Birr Road and to the road beyond the Church of Ireland. Stone walling on the approach from Cadamstown needed repairing in places. We note your work in regard to weed control. Are your methods environmentally friendly? The new footpaths must be a welcome addition.

### **Residential Areas:**

There are a large number of new houses in the village since this adjudicator last visited. You have mentioned nameplates to the housing estates which will be of great benefit. The housing estate on the Birr Road with the well maintained green space was admired and there was some other attractive individual houses and gardens on this road. The crescent of houses on the Kilcormac Road was admired. The creeper-clad house in the centre of the village is quite charming. We look forward to the estate name stones being erected and are pleased to hear that each estate looks after their own open spaces.

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

The Cadamstown approach road was a little overgrown, as was the Kilcormac Road. The Birr road was in better condition with its new footpaths and fine mature trees although some weeds were evident to the kerbsides. Directional signage in the centre of the village appeared to be a little stained and should be washed down. The new welcome signage was greatly admired.

### **General Impression:**

It was many years since this adjudicator had the pleasure of visiting Kinnity and many changes had indeed taken place in that time. It looked well cared for on adjudication day.