

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmacthomas** Ref: **855**
County: **Waterford** Mark: **225**
Category: **D** Date(s): **30/06/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	225

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed application form and the accompanying map which was helpful in identifying the core areas of note in the town.

The committee of 9 has a large area to cover and much change has occurred in Kilmacthomas in the last ten years, you have coped with that change well.

There is evidence in the way the town looked that your work as a committee is paying off.

It is hard to get every body working to the same agenda, this applies to every village or town but voluntary committees have just accept this and keep extolling the benefits of programmes such as TidyTowns.

The town is about to enter into a period of infrastructural work on the sewage and water scheme, this will no doubt cause disruption.

It was good to note that you have a strong working relationship with Waterford County Council and now is an appropriate time to draw up a 3 year work plan and present same to Council Officials.

Any physical improvements such as road re surfacing and new landscaping plans can be done in tandem with the ongoing work.

The Built Environment:

The main centre of the town has some very fine properties in good state of repair and well presented.

The downside is that it has number of derelict or unoccupied buildings that need attention.

One is aware that the Committee has taken action on the derelict site that is in a central part of the town ,it also needs to assign some one from within its ranks to see how best to tackle the overall problem of derelict properties. Easier said than done as this can be a very sensitive issue in a tight knit community.

The Church of Our Lady of Mercy and the adjoining Convent were very well presented and the Day Care Centre was in excellent condition.

St Declan's Community School is fine modern educational establishment that has added greatly to the town. It was noted from a conversation with a local person that there are plans to duct the wiring underground when the sewage and water scheme is nearing completion.

One presumes that the road in the core area of the village will be resurfaced and that existing footpaths will be made good.

The local Learblainnn and Credit Union buildings were presented to very acceptable standard as public buildings should be.

Unfortunately the Public Toilets were in very poor condition and were actually unhygienic, remedial action should be taken by Waterford County Council post haste.

The following commercial and private properties appealed to this adjudicator for aesthetic reasons: Keighery Callaghan, The Pharmacy and The B&B name eludes me but it had nice wrought iron sign in black base with gold lettering.

Kirwan's Bar and Kent's are nice shop fronts but the latter has too much fly posting on the windows.

The Centra Store and the aptly named at the time Rainbow Community Centre were also well maintained with front areas tidy.

Landscaping:

The landscaping and planting arrangements around the town and its surrounds were of very high standard. One wonders why more is not made of the Town Park, there are many other places around the country that would give anything to have such a facility. As far as I can recall it is not identified on any of the attractive directional signs in the town centre.

Some premises had very attractive and colourful hanging baskets which gave the centre area a more appealing look.

It may be an opportune time to re view your planting plans in light of the infrastructural work that is happening and get some more permanent stone beds put in place.

The young Cherry Blossom trees were admired as one traversed along the comparatively new college road, this road wasn't there I when last visited some years back now.

Overall a good performance and a prospect of more to come in the future.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The work done in the excellent and aforementioned public park was noted.

This type of practical work is major contributor the promotion and conservation of various forms of wild life. As regards the proposed railway walks is it possible to commission one or two information boards that will depict the wild life species that are associated with the area.

Congratulations on the work you have undertaken in this category over the year for this you are awarded an increase in marks.

Litter Control:

Litter control was quite good in a small town that has a lot of hidden areas of the main street.

I am aware that it was of major concern to locals that the litter situation was getting out of hand and that the Committee has taken immediate action to improve the situation.

Your weekly picks are paying off and certain business premises are paying more attention and playing more active role in combating the litter problem.

Keep up the good work and make sure that you still play a big role in bringing the message of good litter control to both schools.

Waste Minimisation:

The Bring Bank was visited early morning and a number of bottles and cans were left, in a tidy fashion might I add, beside the receptacle. It is not an accepted practice as it will be copied by others; allowances have to be made in that it was directly after the week end period.

There are many other action ideas that you can engage in and you should consult the Race Against Waste website on a regular basis to get up to date information.

This is a category that additional marks can be gained in by undertaking some basic relevant activities; remember to keep the school children both primary and secondary involved.

Tidiness:

The ducting of wires and the need for road resurfacing and new footpaths has mentioned in a previous section and when this happens it should completely change the appearance of the main area of the town.

There are other areas of tidiness that you need to be aware of, too much flyposting, unsightly back areas and the control of weed growth at kerbsides.

The town has a bit of all three and rather than going on in detail it's suffice to state that Committee needs to make this section an high priority action and to try and influence people to help you with your efforts.

Residential Areas:

It is important to accentuate the positives in any situation first off and there are a number of positive comments to be made about the existing older housing developments in the town.

For example the established terrace of houses at St Anne's Terrace were very well presented and some premises had very attractive small gardens.

The comparatively new development at Radharc an Cnoic is blending in with the existing village structure.

Your plans to hold a Best Kept Garden competition is most welcome and it may also get you new recruits for your Committee. Hopefully the business fraternity will help you with sponsorship of prizes.

Finally the individual town houses in the Town centre were structurally well maintained and some painted in bright colours.

One slight complaint it was time consuming trying to identify the housing areas when one had no details on the map supplied, maybe this could be rectified for next years competition.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The entrances into the town from all sides were for the most part well presented.

The Clonea/Clonmel entrance has an impressive landmark viaduct and one noticed further the premises of firm synonymous with Kilmacthomas for years and still going strong Flavahans – there were times in my youth I cursed the name.

The Convent Road or Carroll's Cross entrance boasts a most attractive blue name sign which was also noted in a few other Waterford towns.

The road surfaces have been commented upon elsewhere and the work to be undertaken has been well flagged.

You can be rightly proud of the wall from the Convent into the centre it is big addition to the town.

General Impression:

There is a lot of infrastructural work taking place in the town at present and more is planned for the immediate future.

When this is completed the town will have a significant change to its appearance and this will be for the better. Kilmac ,to give it its colloquial name, has far more potential than most towns of its size and the efforts of the hard working committee in responding to suggestions has been recognised by an increase in overall marks.