

# Tidy Towns Competition 2008

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Kilmuckridge** Ref: **890**  
County: **Wexford** Mark: **230**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **09/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	4
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>230</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you very much for the excellent application form supplemented by a straight forward and easy to understand sketch map and a copy of urban design plan for the village, which may I add is an excellent document drawn up by the community.

Having been out of the competition for a number of years it looks like you have got together as a proactive committee of 15 to revitalise interest in TidyTowns and to try and regain the good standing that the village had in the competition in the past.

You have developed good links with Wexford County Council and have benefited by way of substantial resource funding support for the village renewal programme.

The level of interaction with other local organisations is extremely important as it fosters a spirit of pride and place.

Good to note also that you have involved both the national school agus An Gairm Scoil in your activities and that they have responded in a very supportive manner.

### **The Built Environment:**

It has been some years since the adjudicator was in Kilmuckridge and there has been significant improvement to what I would call the central part of the village around Corrigan's Londis and Boggan's Pub.

There has been a remarkable improvement in the standard of road surface and particularly footpaths which have been enhanced by stone walls and very well designed and effective bollards.

I would urge that the timber fencing on the excellent low stone wall be repaired as it takes away a little from that immediate area.

The village streetscape is not spoilt by a plethora of unsightly wires criss crossing over head.

Good to note that you have taken steps to get the committee of KMH, which is fine amenity, to paint the

building. Is there a possibility that the immediate frontage be re surfaced as it is very uneven at present? Good idea to investigate the possibility of getting support to have the castle used as a practical amenity or heritage centre that would be an attraction for both locals and visitor alike. Both Schools and Church were all in a very presentable state, credit is due to those people that have the responsibility for their upkeep. Similar sentiments can apply to those who are entrusted with the job of maintaining the excellent Grotto. Dereliction is something that most villages of size have to contend with and Kilmuckridge is no different. By comparison with some other similar sized places your problems are quite miniscule, but as a committee you have to keep encouraging owners to make good properties that have fallen in disrepair or dereliction. The following commercial properties were admired by the adjudicator for the quality of presentation: Hammel's Bar and Lounge, Boggans, Sean Ogs Hotel on the outskirts and the busy Corrigan's Londis centre.

### **Landscaping:**

Planting arrangements in the village and its surrounds were noteworthy for their practicality with the proper mix of easily maintained shrubs, border annuals and perennials such as pansies, potted begonia, spirea and campanula. This type of arrangement mix can be seen to good effect at the previously mentioned grotto. The work done to date has had a practical effect as well as aesthetic value and you are to be complemented on this.

Geenmount Ave was mentioned in your submission as one of the areas for attention; it would be an ideal place to put a colourful perennial flower bed to complement the existing shrubbery which is dominated by a large volume of St Johns Wort.

Stone work is a feature of Kilmuckridge and the stone bed near Corrigan's Londis had a nice mix of healthy shrubs and colourful flowers.

The new low maintenance shrub bed at Sean Ogs Hotel was very much admired for its practicality and credit is due to the owners for their efforts.

The grass areas were all well maintained considering the "summer" weather we have been having.

There are a couple of green areas in the outskirts of the village that could be softened by the placing of nice wooden or wrought tubs.

Overall you have addressed this category to good effect.

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

The Committee has been very proactive in helping to increase awareness among the community for the need to embrace the concept of wildlife appreciation and nature conservation.

Involvement of the local national school is a key component for success in this category, it is important that committee continue to help the school to achieve its objective of putting in place a school garden.

Continuation of the progress being undertaken in this category will, as well as possible increase in marks, see a legacy for future generations of Kilmuckridge residents and indeed for the large number of seasonal visitors that the Village attracts.

### **Litter Control:**

Considering that the village is in the throes of the tourist season, such as it is, the standard of litter control was quite good.

Existing litter bins are a bit dated and it's an opportune time to approach the County Council to replace these yellow ones.

The adjudicator has noted that some villages in the county had some attractive new bins in place.

Promoting the message of good litter control is an ongoing exercise and you should get that message to the transient visitors as well as the local community.

It might be worth approaching the principals in both schools to consider putting together some form of simple and practical campaign.

Keep up the good work in this category.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The committee should involve itself in an awareness programme to encourage the community as a whole to continually be aware and be involved in better ways to segregate waste and to come up new initiatives.

Involving the both schools, not just the primary school, is also an important step.

Consulting the publication How to win the Race Against Waste in your Community is a good way to get information on how to segregate waste properly and how to get involved in home composting amongst other. Alternatively one can look up the Race Against Waste website which has up to date ideas on projects that can be undertaken in this comparatively new category.

The School has Green flag status and both teachers and pupils are to be complemented for their efforts.

**Tidiness:**

Overall the standard was acceptable and the summary of projects undertaken, or in the process of being done, this year reflects your efforts to improve the overall standard of tidiness in the village.

Derelection is often a major problem for a lot of small villages but Kilmuckridge does not seem to have an acute a problem as other centres, that said it's important to continue the process that you are engaged in at the moment.

Weed control was good considering that the weather has not been very helpful over the last number of weeks. Be vigilant in relation to fly posting and advise businesses to consider alternatives to window advertising if possible.

**Residential Areas:**

The Housing stock levels have increased fairly dramatically since this adjudicator last visited the village. It was not possible to determine what proportion are for seasonal renting or permanent use, but it is important that the committee continue to liaise with all residents to ensure uniformity in standards of presentation and upkeep.

The adjudicator was impressed by the quality of existing houses and the newer estates such as Greenmount Avenue which has a nice inviting entrance and is due for further enhancement.

The row of cottages opposite the school were very well maintained and obviously a source of pride to the owners.

Millfield is a relatively new estate that would benefit from some prudent landscaping at the entrance.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Entrances into the village were well maintained, signs were clear and visible, verges and hedgerows were treated in accordance with recommended guidelines.

Both the Curracloe and Ballydemond entrances had nice inviting features such as a fine stone sign in the case of the latter.

Road surfaces were a bit a mixed, the road in from Morriscastle had very rough edges and dangerous for anyone walking on either side.

Overall a good standard was observed.

**General Impression:**

It was nice to re visit Kilmuckridge after some years absence and it was also good to note that this visit coincided with the village's re entry in to the competition.

One notes that you consider the level of development that has taken place in the village over the last 10 years has had a negative effect on both the physical appearance and on the social fabric of the village.

This is something that many other communities feel as well and I suppose that this is the price one has paid for "progress".

The slow down in the economy may also be a good thing, as the spirit of voluntarism had almost totally evaporated within some communities.

You are fortunate in that you seem to be a much focussed group that is trying hard to re vitalise the interest of the wider community in TidyTowns.

Kilmuckridge has the potential to re establish a good standing in the competition, accept the changes that have occurred and accentuate the many positives that the village has.

You are wished well for the future.