

Tidy Towns Competition 2008

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilrane-Rosslare Harbour** Ref: **1052**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **213**
Category: **B** Date(s): **09/07/2008**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2008
Overall Development Approach	50	26
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	2
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	213

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the for the completed application form outlying the work plan undertaken to date. The sketch map attached while basic was a help to the adjudicator in locating some of the key places in what is a rather large area to cover.

It was not if you are a first time entrant or a participant in years past, irrespective you are welcomed in to the competition.

Your positive comments about the competition and what you aim to achieve from it have been taken on board, the adjudicator will endeavour to be as fair as possible in assessing the double village

One tried to establish if Kilrane Rosslare is one parish as there were two schools and two churches!

It might be worthwhile considering putting together a 3 year plan for an area that is fairly large and that has seen substantial infrastructural change over the last number of years.

The relationship with Wexford County Council and other agencies has been noted and it is hoped that you will benefit from this in the years ahead.

The Built Environment:

First off let's concentrate on the positive aspects of the built environment of Kilrane Rosslare and there were many.

Despite the fact that the area is subject to heavy traffic the condition of the road surfaces was quite good, one would have liked to traverse from Kilrane into the harbour by foot with more comfort.

Is it possible to lobby Wexford Council to consider extending footpaths in both directions at some stage over the next few years?

Kilrane Rosslare has been subjected to a fairly extensive development both commercial and housing over the last number years and one wonders if it can sustain much more.

Planning notice observed in Kilrane village shows plans for additional 61 housing units in that area alone. The long standing B & B Kilrane House is for sale-is this an indicator for the future of such tourist accommodation in the years ahead. Culleton's Pub is, as always, in exemplary condition and the St Ruades guesthouse across the road deserves mention for the manner in which it is maintained. The local RC Church is nice and compact but could do with a re painting, the local Kilrane NS was very well presented on the day. The community hall which was the old school needs to be re vitalised some what as it looked a little forlorn. Full marks to the graveyard committee for the way the graveyard has been looked after. Rosslare Harbour village itself has undergone worthwhile infrastructural change without unduly taking away from its appeal. The addition of a promenade overlooking the port and the beach is something that has been welcomed by local and visitor alike. Nice seating complements the whole development and allows one to relax and observe the view, and also admire local landmarks such as the wonderfully maintained Marian Year statue that over looks the bay. The harbour area, whilst busy, looks very orderly when viewed from above. Rosslare Harbour village has a number of derelict buildings and the committee need to engage with owners to encourage them to make good some of those properties. There are a number of hotels and holiday apartments most which are well maintained. Some commercial properties have either moved to the centre on the externs of the village or are up for sale. The memorial park was in excellent condition and facilities such as the public toilets were clean and usable. A historic link with Rosslare's past is the Railway Social club and this was also well presented on the day. Overall a good standard was achieved in this category

Landscaping:

Landscaping arrangements were both practical and aesthetic but it would be impossible to review all in such a short resume. The following appealed to the adjudicator for a number of reasons; the roundabout planting at the harbours because it softens the approach, a nice arrangement in front of the relatively modern style church in Rosslare and the landscaping work that has been undertaken at the Memorial Park. There were also examples of some exquisite gardens to be viewed principally on the promenade area of the harbour. On the Kilrane end Culleton's had some nice hanging basket arrangements, and a mature garden just above the church contained a beautiful shrub border that complemented existing old trees.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The hilltop walk offers opportunities to develop a wildlife project of substance; this of course is only one of many natural habitats that exist in the area. One feels that it might be the ideal location for the siting of an information notice board that would reflect both that wildlife and the marine life of the Rosslare Harbour catchment area. Do ensure to involve school children from both schools in any project that you undertake. Nature conservation does not solely relate to the countryside or beach, there are many habitats that may exist within the villages that can be explored and included in any work that you undertake in this category. Your objectives for the future in relation to the dunes and the further development of Kirwan's Garden have been taken into consideration as part of the overall application submission.

Litter Control:

Some litter was noted at the road verge on the way into Kilrane Rosslare but overall the level of litter seen was comparatively small for such an expansive area. The organised twice weekly patrols are paying dividends. It is incumbent on the committee to make sure that the message of anti litter is promoted with vigour in and around the main harbour; this should be an integral part of the proposed Anti Litter campaign that you intend to undertake.

Waste Minimisation:

Many ideas to develop projects that contribute to better waste management can be got by accessing the Race Against Waste booklet or the website of the same name. Simple ideas can have very positive results so you are encouraged to either act on the above or approach the county environmental officer to come and give a talk to the committee on the practical benefits of waste minimisation.

Tidiness:

Weed control was effective even in conditions that were very conducive to accelerated growth so well done on your ongoing control mechanism.

Rosslare possesses large numbers of temporary signage some of which is both obtrusive and unsightly. Good to note that you are in contact with Wexford County Council to restrict this practice and to ensure that people adhere to the proper criteria for erecting signage.

Little things can be very obvious for instance, the perimeter barrier opposite Harbour View hotel needs to be painted as it looks very tatty at the moment.

Credit is due to the many businesses that have kept their main properties and ancillary side areas in good condition.

The recycling receptacles were well positioned and well maintained.

Residential Areas:

The Kilrane Rosslare catchment area has expanded dramatically over the last number of years and new housing developments have sprung up especially at the Kilrane end.

Churchtown Court is beginning to mature gradually but the entrance is somewhat spoiled by the number of sale signs.

Kilrane Manor is a very well kept estate as is Westwinds; both these estates must have a resident's management group in place as the surrounding areas were in pristine condition.

In Rosslare village the established Goulding Street Cottages and the newly developed La Rochelle were admired for contrasting reasons.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The entrance in on the N25 has been improved on over the last few years with the provision of a cycle track for the many cyclists that use the ferry port.

Better provision could have been made for those on foot as the link between Kilrane and Rosslare village is not that conducive for walking

Directional and name place signs were clean and visible, but the proliferation of commercial business and other signs is very unsightly and slightly distracting.

The link roads from Ballycullane, Rosslare Village and down by the St Ruades Guesthouse were well presented and were free from any obtrusive objects that hinder ones visibility.

Some interlink roads in and around Rosslare village were a little rough probably from the heavy vehicle traffic using warehouses and depots.

General Impression:

It was nice to welcome Kilrane Rosslare Harbour into the competition for 2008.

It's an area that I have passed through on journeys to Cardiff on rugby occasions but have not taken time out to explore for quite some years.

Many positive changes have occurred but progress does bring its downside and the myriad of signs can be annoying as they take away from the look of both villages.

That said the good things far outweighed the bad and it was a nice experience to be able to explore areas such as the promenade and the cliff walk.

The newly formed committee is proactive in its approach to the future and one looks forward to seeing Kilrane Rosslare making good strides in the competition in the years ahead.