

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Kilworth** Ref: **297**  
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **281**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **19/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	42
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	21
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	39
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>281</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Thank you very much for the completed entry form, map of the surrounding area and, most of all, the 3 – 5 year plan. I note you have 14 committee members and you have 18 volunteers who, as you state, help in various ways. It is positive to find that you are getting support from Rural Social Scheme, K Community Council, Leader, Cork County Council and Muintir Na Tire. It is worthwhile, as you are doing, to have a good working relationship with the schools and I read that the school staff wishes to get five green flags. We are pleased to find that your group are learning a lot from participation in the Tidy Towns Competition. The community event day is a great social occasion. All of this means you have a good positive approach to the competition. I read your letter about last year's adjudication, and firstly the reduction of 11 marks was not a mistake in my view. On a more positive note the adjudicator last year increased your marks for tidiness by 6 and roads streets and back areas by 4

### **The Built Environment:**

The business houses around the town are well maintained and I admired Gallery Crafts, The Garda Station and the post office. The old Market house with the clock has unique stonework and it is great to find that the old weighbridge is still in place. The disused Church of Ireland commands a prominent role in the village and is of unique character. I admired the plaque to Liam De Noraidh. The Catholic Church looked supreme, but the wall outside needs attention. St Martin's national school looked great. The GAA club sported good dressing rooms, and again I liked the great stone wall outside. The sports complex is a fine community hall and the tennis courts and pitch and putt courses are excellent amenities.

### **Landscaping:**

The graveyard is maintained in wonderful condition and this tranquil and serene setting is a credit to those that look after it. If I could please make a few brief comments, not criticisms, I saw that the grass clippings are

removed when cutting, but this causes a problem with where to store the grass, and we find that it is put one side, and can be unsightly. It is recommended that grass in graveyards could be left uncollected where it falls, and if the grass is cut on a regular basis there will be no problems. I noticed a few lime trees up near the old vault, but unfortunately they could be removed as the roots will damage headstones and walls. The herb garden is wonderful and I admired lemon balm, fennel, parsley, chives, sage and thyme.

There is a natural landscape all around the town with those wonderful stone walls, and I found them in some places to be of exceptional quality. I did notice that these walls are repaired in some places, but not in the traditional style, and this was particularly prevalent on the Mitchelstown road. I understand that such walls should always be maintained and repaired in the same style as the old existing walls, and with great care taken to use the correct type of mortar. You could consider getting a copy of the revised version of Pat McAfee's book, Irish Stone Walls, and it is sponsored by The Heritage Council. You could also consult with the conservation officer at Cork County Council for advice, and better again, you may qualify for a grant to repair the stonework on these precious gems. There are impressive splashes of landscaping all around the town and in the amenity areas where good garden furniture was in place which makes Kilworth a very picturesque location, and the new round seat is unusual and great – well done. Impressive green areas with neatly trimmed grass give freshness to the place. It is good to find that you are planting new trees to add to the established trees. Colourful hanging baskets were very cheerful in appearance. Some very attractive wild flowers, mainly valerian, had their own particular charm. Floral arrangements at private houses were noted.

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

It is good to see the work going ahead on the bird boxes and you are going the right way from the start by engaging with the wildlife officer. If you plan to plant more trees you could get a copy of Our Trees ISBN 0-9518612-5-5 as it contains great information on the correct type of trees to plant, and indeed how to propagate your own trees, now there is a nice challenge for some interested people. For the schools Paddy Madden's book, The School Garden, is excellent. It is interesting to find that a butterfly garden is planned. The children's playground is a great facility and it was delightful to see a lot of children out enjoying themselves in the fresh air. I saw where the work has started on the new people's park.

### **Litter Control:**

I saw the results of the litter campaign, first judging, and congratulations to all concerned for attaining 98 marks – wonderful. From your submission you have a very good approach to the litter question this year. There were a number of well serviced litter bins all around the town and in the amenity areas.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The depot has been moved to a new location. Again you have a very positive attitude to the race against waste and I see you plan to do some composting, and this could involve the grass from the graveyard. You are going the right way in dealing with this most important subject by organising a visit from Cork environmental officer to advise you on composting, recycling and reusing. The school children and teachers are playing their part. There is concern in many areas caused by the abuse of bring sites and it is a positive approach to install a camera.

### **Tidiness:**

The town was presented in a tidy and orderly fashion. I note you had improved very well in tidiness last year and the effort is sustained again this year – well done. Where the cables are underground it makes a huge difference, and it is worthwhile to keep after the ESB to put some more cables underground. The old traditional water pumps are great historical features and I am glad you have maintained them so tidily, could I suggest that perhaps they could be painted a softer colour – maybe black or dark green.

### **Residential Areas:**

There are numerous houses around the town that are maintained in superb condition with great displays of shrubs, trees, flowers, hedging, stone walls and lawns. The housing estates are well maintained and the new estates are very well planned and laid out. Some good landscaping was admired in the housing estates.

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

Some of the surfaces of the roads need attention, particularly the road to Mitchelstown. There were good grassed areas in some appropriate places by the roadsides. The stone wall and general area at Molly's cross are beautiful. All the road signage is very good around Kilworth with clean and distinct signposts.

### **General Impression:**

It is good to find that you have concentrated this year on planning and the plan submitted has ambitious targets. I could see the footprints of enthusiastic and imaginative people all around Kilworth. I hope my

comments are of use to you and could I say that it is never too late to implement new ideas and practices in the same way that it is never too late to stop smoking. The graveyard was special well done.