

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kiskeam** Ref: **654**
County: **Cork(North)** Mark: **271**
Category: **A** Date(s): **05/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	40
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	22
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	21
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	33
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	271

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed entry form. I note you have twelve members in your committee, and hold monthly meetings. It is good to find you are getting support from Fás, Co. Council, IRD Duhallow. You are getting your message across well with the Mass newsletter. I note you are involved with the Co Council re: the green flag, and you are very aware of inter-village tidy towns competition. It is great to see you find the competition to be excellent and that the comments and proposals are very useful. The Easter Weekend Music Festival is a great social occasion. Thank you for the map, and I read over the three year plan which is very positive. In relation to work on the graveyard wall I would recommend you seek advice on the type of mortar to be used, and you could have a discussion on the topic with a structural engineer. It is my understanding that a special lime mortar is preferred to the use of cement based mortar, or as you state, concrete when working with stone

The Built Environment:

The school was well presented neat and tidy. The Kiskeam brass band house is very ornately decorated with some fine sketches. The Harp and Shamrock Bar, Caseys Garage and The Why Not Bar were presented in a very good fashion. The Coisceim GAA Pavilion and dressing rooms are impressive and substantial buildings and a great facility for the local people. The Roman Catholic Church is a great modern Church building very well maintained.

Landscaping:

The commitment to landscaping is laudable as the village sports some most attractive sites. The Graveyard is in very good condition and well done to all concerned. At the top of the village turning up to the GAA grounds the shrubbery is very colourful and fresh. The area across from the "Why Not" looks like a development site and perhaps it could be screened off on a temporary basis or, better again, permanently. I note there are a lot

of beech trees in the area as hedging and mature trees. Could I respectfully suggest that you could get a copy of "Our Trees" ISBN 0-9518612-5-5 which is, in my view, a wonderful book on trees. The "Bronze Age Stone Circle" in memory of the Bronze Age people who inhabited Kiskeam is a rare and wonderful spectacle, and is quiet educational with the historical stone carvings. I also admired the stone to the local poet and teacher Edward Walsh, "1805-1850". The area is maintained in great condition and the pieces of bog oak further adorn the site. The sculpture of the "Footstep of the Old Hag" again is a rare feature and very attractive. I admired the stone walls in this area with an arrangement of new trees developing well. Could I suggest, with respect, that you could consider doing the future stone work planned in traditional style using the recommended lime mortar as distinct from the use of rigid cement based mortar. Pat McAfee's book is very good on this topic. The grotto and surrounding area are beautiful and well done to all concerned for a great effort. The "Man of the Match" award for me goes to the River Walk! What an excellent amenity - safe and sound timber bridge, good paths, first quality seating and tables with trimmed grass. The sight of thousands of little fish in the stream was special and tells us that the river is not polluted. The people of your community are very well catered for with this amenity and I admired the public lighting system with the cables underground. This is a haven for wildlife. All these works show what can be achieved through energy, imagination and leadership and is surely an arduous task to maintain the river walk in particular.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As already stated, the river walk is a haven for wildlife. I note you have plans for a second bridge over the river. You could endeavour to get some local people to help you out with the treatment of wildlife, as I suspect there could be many people interested in outdoor pursuits in the Kiskeam district. I find that wildlife is not mentioned in your three year plan.

Litter Control:

I find that you are participating in North Cork litter challenge. I saw that litter is taken seriously by the local community, as there was not much litter present. I saw the litter bin provided by Cork County Council which is stored beside the private house near the post office, and it is unusual to find that this work of keeping the streets tidy is done voluntarily in Kiskeam.

Waste Minimisation:

It is good to see that you get good co-operation from the schools and businesses. It could be positive to encourage the community to compost all their suitable waste material. The way to go here is firstly through the schools and try as already stated to get the green flag. I know that the teachers could have enough to do at present in the classroom, and in some areas people are appointed to help out the teachers in this respect.

Tidiness:

The village had a fresh and clean appearance. You certainly have got on top of the weeds on the roadsides and footpaths. The works on the estate at Moylan park have a visual effect on the area, but this work is being carried out in a most responsible fashion.

Residential Areas:

Moylan Park has a group of two storey houses nicely recessed off the road and I notice it is being extended. Here, again, there is a great modern stone faced wall. Throughout the town there are some wonderful private houses with great lawns, trees, shrubs and flowers. It is clear to me that they are somewhat inspired by the tidy towns committee.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

All the approach roads are in good condition and the signposts are clear and clean. Likewise the road surfaces in the town are excellent. The new sign Failte go coisheim is very welcome.

General Impression:

Kiskeam is maintained in good condition, and away from the main road one finds a tranquil and serene setting. There are some defining and unique architectural qualities in your town which augment the splendid countryside all around.