

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcar** Ref: **272**
County: **Donegal** Mark: **244**
Category: **A** Date(s): **20/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	30
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	10
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	244

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your entry into this year's Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your detailed entry form and for the outline plan. It is recommended that you expand upon this a little. Breaking the tasks down into months, seasons etc. will make it more manageable and allow you to allocate tasks to people more effectively. Thanks for the map which was perfect for use on the day. Yours is a committee that works with others so communication is important. Have you a website?

The Built Environment:

The Halla Pharoiste looked well on day of visit. It is a shame about the dereliction of the Piper's Rest (Pub) and the other house in the Main street. It is a shame that St. Mathew's is in such a poor state. The graveyard here could make a nice informal nature reserve. The Post Office looked well. Studio Donegal looked well but the carpark needs some attention. The base of the wall at the Aislann Centre could be washed. The Tabhairne and adjacent garage are in need of painting. An Siopa Spar looked good.

Landscaping:

There are numerous examples of nicely filled planters and tubs around the village. Well done. The grotto looks very well. The (RC) Church could perhaps be a little more decorated. The sleeper bed in your Green School looks great.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Your plans for this section sound very positive. Do contact the National Parks and Wildlife Service for advice on working near or in rivers. Montbretia and Japanese knotweed were noted in the river. These are

non-native and potentially invasive species. The old walls of the village are a habitat of themselves. There is a variety of fern species, foxgloves and hawkbits competing with bramble on the earth banks of the village. A floral identification project might be a good idea for the school.

Litter Control:

Well done on your regular anti-litter initiatives. They seem to have worked as hardly any litter was seen on day of visit.

Waste Minimisation:

Your idea to locate a site for community composting is excellent. Continue to promote home composting too. Does the Green School have composters? It's great that you're finding out more about the wormeries. These are highly effective.

Tidiness:

Do keep working with the County Council on the improvements to signage and road marking. Pavement and road surfaces were quite good. Weed control was very good. The fork in the road at the bottom of the town needs some work. The parking area in front of the Udaras factory is poor and the back area here could be better. While the majority of the signage in the village looks good, the Mace sign jars badly. The historical information on Kilcar was most interesting.

Residential Areas:

The vast majority of the private houses and garden seen were maintained to a high standard. There were some lovely planters and hanging baskets. Not all areas had names. The estate across the river (Cottage Lawns, Park?) looked very well. There are nice planters here and it is very well kept.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Verges were trimmed and looked neat. The name stones are nice. The speed limit signs were clean.

General Impression:

Kilcar is a very nice village. It is very bright and well kept and it has a lovely setting, secluded from busy roads in a natural river valley. It is well endowed with natural amenities and should maximise this. Your entry outlines some very worthwhile initiatives. Please report the progress on these, no matter if it is slow, in future entries. Progress is very important. Good luck with all of your work.