

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Kilcock** Ref: **748**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **227**  
Category: **D** Date(s): **08/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	31
The Built Environment	50	26
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	32
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>227</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Welcome to the 2009 competition. Thank you for your considered submission and map which made it easy to locate projects and tasks around the town. Your town's canal side location and great legacy of Victorian architecture in the centre are valuable assets. Now that you have been bye-passed with the advent of the motorway you can start to enjoy and build on your towns qualities. Your TidyTowns Plan is a very useful check list for you and I hope as you complete items on it you will have a real sense of satisfaction.

### **The Built Environment:**

Your built environment is a great asset. You note the importance of the major buildings in the village but without the "very ordinary" vernacular architecture at its heart the village would be a lot poorer. I noted a large number of derelict sites and empty buildings. I hope many of these are listed for preservation as they are important examples of their type. Keep up the good work with monitoring planning applications and contact with Kildare County Council. The areas of the square, which have been upgraded, look well. The modern steel planters and seats work very well in the older streetscape. Less car parking here would be a great help in making the space more "foot friendly". Good luck in your efforts to get more off street parking. The Polo and Canoe Club building along the canal bank is simple modern building and fits well into it's location. Many of the shop fronts and building exteriors are fine examples of how to treat old vernacular architecture, particularly the Bank opposite the canal, the Credit Union, and Gallagy's Pharmacy on New Lane.

### **Landscaping:**

The walkway along the tow path of the canal is a delightful linear park. To the west of the bridge even though the walk is on hardcore it is a very pleasant space and eases into a natural landscape. Your hard work in maintaining the planting the tubs and hanging baskets has paid off. They are a delight to the town and a credit to you. I got particular pleasure walking around the side of the church to find the tranquil gardens there. The

planters outside of the Court House must momentarily cheer up a variety of characters. Keep up this good work.

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

Keep up contact with Inland Waterways for the information board about the natural habitat along the canal. The canal of course is potentially your greatest and most educational wildlife amenity. The canal walk is already a delight and I look forward to it's improvement not only as a strollers way but as a habitat supporting a rich variety of wildlife. Keep up contact with the local schools. As there are a few green flags there the younger people with their teachers might be able to help with your plans in this category.

#### **Litter Control:**

I was impressed by the lack of litter evident around the central village area on the day of my visit. There is a small litter trap beside the steps at the side of the canal bridge. The extra litter bins and the boxes for cigarette butts outside the pubs are having a good effect. Your litter programme is working well.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

This is an area that you could easily score well in. As you already have a Green Flag School you are well on your way. The right site for a re-cycling facility is important. I am pleased that you have achieved household waste segregation and have a clothing bin in the grounds of Scoil Dara. Good luck with achieving a second Green Flag. Waste minimisation is a popular and welcome idea for most people. It is often as simple as giving people the information and facilities which they need to become eager practitioners. I know you are at the early stages yet, but you are on the right path. Best of luck.

#### **Tidiness:**

The derelict houses in the village are a problem. I am glad that you are looking at proposals mooted for redevelopment. Close contact with the council planning department about what is planned and implementation of the Derelict Site Act will help. A good traffic management strategy and as you have noted more off street car parking will greatly help the general appearance of the area. I noted some graffiti around the canal bank, which is a great pity. Well done on removing the old telephone boxes and control of the kerb side weeds. The approach to the town around Keely's Garage and at the Gum Factory could be improved with a general clean up or extensive screening. However the approach to the motorway is a delight. Well done.

#### **Residential Areas:**

Your work with new and established residents associations is showing results. The cottages and gardens along Church Lane are a pleasure to see. Most of the estates are well presented. Pinewood and Abbeyfield Estates in particular are well landscaped and inviting. Signage is sometimes obscured by landscaping such as at Royal Meadows, however the open space here with it's line of young trees is going to mature well. Well done on taking action on foot of the remarks in last years adjudication.

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

The poor quality of the roads and pavements are an issue here. I expect years of cars trundling through the town heading west did you no favours. Perhaps now its time for the local authority to make amends and resurface the public paths and roads of Kilcock.

The area around Butlers Lane where the post office is located is a lovely urban space, but not underfoot. I have already mentioned the approach road from Enfield. By contrast the road to the motorway and it's roundabout is well maintained and provided a good approach to Kilcock.

#### **General Impression:**

The village is looking well. I enjoyed my visit. You are doing a great job with a good team. I look forward to your continued progress, keep up the good work.