

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcullen** Ref: **371**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **264**
Category: **C** Date(s): **21/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	41
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	43
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	13
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	264

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 which have received your attention. Your action plan for this year is comprehensive and informative. I am very impressed with your organisation's efficiency, energy, range of contacts, fundraising skills and indeed its list of achievements. Your web site and ability to raise publicity locally are valuable ways to spread the tidytowns message.

The Built Environment:

Your built environment is a great asset. The town on the hill give rise to interesting street spaces. The river and your well maintained stock of Victorian house and shops is invaluable. Most of these structures are very well maintained with Fallons Pub, The Bank of Ireland , The Tearman, Bardons Guest House and Pub, and Noels Butchers with it's clever shop window display are all fine examples of how to care for an older building. The design of the Credit Union Building cleverly combining the older building, beside the Mass Path, with the new extension is worthy of comment. Your plans to lower the walls of the Convent grounds are commendable, as it would give the street at this important corner a less "alley like "appearance. Pity about the derelict building behind the garage on the Athy Road. I like your painted window approach to derelict building and the fact that you also take the trouble to dress them with window boxes. Well done.

Landscaping:

The planting through the main village area is delightful. I also enjoyed the walk along the river with it's terrace behind the Town Hall building. The path makes it's way under the bridge to the car park. The park area across the river at the mass path is also well maintained and planted. A little more attention might be paid to the

gardens of the old boys school now a library and the front of the garda station. Some weeds are now peeping through the gravel around the Dun Aillinne Monument.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

I very much enjoyed waking by the river on both sides. Planting is carefully selected to encourage wild life. I liked the information sign at the start of the Mass Path, but it needs repairing or replacement. I look forward to the report by Mary Tubridy, on bio diversity, being widely circulated and appreciated. This was mentioned in last years assessment. The remarks of last years adjudicator are still relevant and worth following up. This is an area that your town could score well in as it is blessed with a wonderful natural environment along the riverbank which is such a part of the character of the town.

Litter Control:

I was impressed by the lack of litter evident around the town. I am aware that this is the result of your hard work over a period of time in getting regular street sweeping and cleaning organised where it was needed. I noted some small amounts of litter in the car park. But the other areas which you mentioned in your report were litter free. Keep up the good work such as your Spring-Clean and close contact with Kildare County Council.

Waste Minimisation:

The establishing of a web site for what some people no longer need is working well in other areas. I hope you will have one up and running soon. It would be a logical development of your car boot sale. Congratulations on spreading the Waste Minimisation Message with monthly articles in your local magazine. Well done on the awareness in the local school about this issue. It is an important opportunity for students in your area not only to learn about environmental issues such as litter, energy, travel and water, but also allows the students take ownership of these issues themselves, and to make plans on how to improve these areas within the school and the wider community.

Tidiness:

The village generally looks neat and tidy with very few signs of graffiti or untidiness. A few areas requiring attention are the seat in the car park with need re-painting, and the cable wheel sitting in the river bed just upstream of the bridge. An increasing problem in towns today is the number of empty commercial buildings. Your innovative approach here is working well. However be mindful of the right of the local authority to take action under the Derelict Site Acts and other powers.

Residential Areas:

Well done on making new residents welcome and encouraging the establishment of residents associations. As the new estates mature you will see the results of your efforts take root and flourish. The railings and planting at Castle Martin Lodge are well designed and maintained. I liked the undulating grassed open space at Hill Crest and the wall outside of Laurel Wood. The green space in front of the houses at Moanbane Park is very well maintained.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The paving around the village is in very good condition with the exception of the area directly north of the foot of the bridge, where the paths are uneven. Backstreets are generally very clean, particularly the path to the river terrace. One area requiring attention is the area to the side of Steves Daybreak Shop which needs de-weeding and sweeping. The car park and lane way behind the Eurospar was very clean and the rear gardens opening onto it are very well maintained. Well done on your continuous progress with the state of the approach roads.

General Impression:

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