

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildare** Ref: **100**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **226**
Category: **E** Date(s): **23/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	34
The Built Environment	50	31
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	226

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2009 competition. Thank you for your considered submission, the layout of the presentation was attractive, the photographs were really helpful. However the map would have benefited from a few annotations, relating the numbers to the particular project. An index on the map sheet would have helped. Your analysis of the previous years was very informative. It is also indicative of your determination for progress. I am very impressed with your organisation's efficiency, energy, range of contact, fundraising skills and indeed its list of achievements. The involvement of the local school is an encouraging sign of better understanding and adoption of environmental standards to come. This three year plan is well thought out. As your work shows positive results your membership and number of volunteers will increase.

The Built Environment:

Your built environment is a great asset. Kildare with a large number of shops and houses which individually are worthy of conservations, and when seen together make superb streetscape. The issue of empty premises is sadly becoming more common this year. I like your innovative approach with the "Kildare Vinyls" idea. It will work well. Your contact with Kildare County Council will help to ensure that the planning acts are enforced to ensure the conservation of this precious resource. Well done on having the exterior of JJ Mahon painted. Hopefully this success will inspire many more. The market Square is the heart of the town. I will not repeat the detailed analysis of its architecture outlined in last years report. As you now have funding for the painting of the Heritage Centre I hope that you will choose a subtle scheme. Harsh white is a little loud compared with it's neighbours. I like your idea of getting the local school involved in recording the shop fronts in the town and researching the headstones in the local graveyard. The projects should be very useful and educational.

Landscaping:

Well done on the improvements to date at the side of the Weighbridge and at Maryville estate. The trees and

some planting is already in place. This Weighbridge site will become, under your guidance, a very pleasant public space. I was impressed with the number of people of all ages enjoying the Park at St Brigids. The sharp drop in ground level between the Church Grounds and the park will in time be softened with judicious planting. Some planners are now in place outside of the Court House. They should cheer up momentarily the various characters who visit there. Congratulations on this years progress. In addition to your special annual projects you are maintaining a large number of grass verges and hedges and space in the town. This work is often unrecognised, but it is vital to the continued appearance of the town. Your town has a number of mature landscaped areas such as the various church grounds and the Fair Green which appear to be very well maintained. I like the discretion with which you locate your planting tubs. The Market Square is already visually interesting and excessive number of planters would have been counterproductive. The roundabout is the first impression visitors get of Kildare. Good luck with your projects to give them particular local identity. Your "adopt a flower bed" is innovative and will I hope work well.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

I think the advice of last years adjudicator in this area is still valid. Education is vital to our understanding of our natural amenities. So good luck with your plans to identify wildlife and manage habitats in the area. Perhaps help will be closer to you than you think. Perhaps you can locate a student of Environmental Science who would be willing to help with initial fact finding.

Litter Control:

I was impressed by the lack of litter evident around the central village area. Your organised clean ups with residents associations and the local scouts has had an effect. As with last year the bring centre beside the park is attracting refuse dumping. The sign is still in poor condition and a second information sign was on the ground on the day of inspection. I share the view of last years adjudicator that the bins may be in the wrong location.

Waste Minimisation:

Congratulations on the high number of your schools that have been granted a green flags. 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. Keep in contact with Kildare County Council about the CCTV system to monitor the bring centre. Composting is an important element in waste minimisation. Well done but perhaps there is bit more to do in this category.

Tidiness:

Well done on having the Mahon Building cleaned up. The town is generally clean and neat. The verges on Firehouse Lane need attention, but this was an exception rather than typical. The derelict cottage on that lane still remains an eyesore and is used by graffiti artists. Further eye sores are the derelict cottages on the road to Rathangan. These cottages appear to be interesting late Victorian Cottages and have some architectural merit. The Post Office building just off Marker Square also deserves a cleaning up.

Residential Areas:

Well done on your considered approach to the residential areas. Signage or in fact the total absence of it, is a problem. The co-ordination of place signs would of course look neat and also give a sense of township to the estates. There is huge scope for innovative landscaping and use of the open spaces. Perhaps this could also be considered under the Wildlife and Natural Amenities category.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Your work in this category shows results. You are correct about signage. On the access road from the motorway an excessive number of signs do nothing for the image of the town. The roundabouts look well and I look forward to seeing continued innovative improvements there. Many of the points made in last years report are still valid.

General Impression:

Kildare is looking good. It is blessed with a good stock of older buildings mature trees and ancient land marking churches. Your hard work is improving the town each year. Well done and keep up the good work.

