

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kill** Ref: **374**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **288**
Category: **D** Date(s): **16/06/2009**
26/07/2009

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	42
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	40
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	21
Residential Areas	40	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	38
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	288

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for your completed application for Tidy Towns 2009, 3 Year Plan, photos and information regarding local Green-Schools registration. There is a good number on your committee of 15, and support from local businesses (Licensed premises in the village, PDM, Motor Distributors, Ascon Ltd., Behan's supermarket) and Kildare County Council. There is also regular contact between the committee and the school, which is commended. The 3 Year Plan lists objectives, but it would be good to also have a timescale, lead partner to follow through, and indicative costs of projects where possible. Is there a good vision of what you want to achieve and is there a cohesive approach? Maybe there is within the Tidy Towns Committee, but perhaps some input from the wider community should be sought at this stage, to formulate a more focused plan, based on community consultation. Best of luck!

The Built Environment:

Kill is a pleasant place to visit. The church and DSPCA buildings look terrific. The older buildings in the village look the best. The beautiful old cottage, that was swamped by the Cavan homes development, drew some sympathy, although its character still shines through. The newer shops in Clarendon Court are sensitively incorporated into, what looks like an older building. There are many nice private houses and cottages. The school looked lovely, as it was well painted and had nice window boxes. Molly's barbers and the Dew Drop Inn were noticed for looking well, but all shopfronts here are very good.

Landscaping:

There are nice touches of yellow around the recycling centre, which co-ordinates with planters and bollards. This was later noticed as a consistent feature throughout the town and was admired. There are numerous

beds planted throughout, with delights such as pumps and sculptures as features here and there. There is a particularly attractive planting opposite the entrance to St Patrick's park, as well as a lovely area with timber trellis. The riverbank has been planted with willows, and there are native wildflowers sown in the park. The tree planting, planned for the approach roads and entrance roundabouts, will greatly enhance those areas.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The wildlife area by the bring centre is excellent. The birch trees in the mini-wood were noted, as was the lovely line of cherry trees, which would provide food for birds. Bat sanctuary signs were seen in the village and this is a great awareness raising measure.

Litter Control:

Presentation of the bring centre is top class. The small roundabout and sculpture here are beautiful. Its great how the area has been incorporated with wildlife trails and wildflower meadow. Signs against dumping domestic waste were also noted. There was no litter anywhere and plenty of bins. It is a credit to the volunteers that pick up litter so regularly, and also to the committee and the school, and all involved in the clean-ups, as well as council operatives.

Waste Minimisation:

The re-use of tumble dryer drums as planters is good, and the recycling centre is superb. However, there is no further info on waste minimisation plans or projects underway. Perhaps, there is involvement of the wider community in the Green-Schools programme, or promotion of sustainable lifestyles through workshops or seminars? There is room to increase marks in this section. See the Race Against Waste information booklet or consult your local Council for advice on this, as suggested by last years adjudicator. Good luck to the local school, in the Green-Schools programme, in implementing the seven steps towards getting the Green Flag.

Tidiness:

Lots of well placed litter bins, with quite a bit of graffiti, though some needed a paint or had letters missing. Some roads need to be repainted/ resurfaced as the markings are no longer clear. It's a challenge, the multitude of building sites and temporary fencing in place. Efforts made to screen some sites were noted, such as hoarding, but when its not painted it looks shabby. To redo them would make a big difference. There are quite a few sites that could be better screened, if there is co-operation from the owners. Some innovative methods used, such as the ring topped posts near the business park, successfully drew the eye away from derelict site.

No major problems, it's a very tidy village.

Residential Areas:

The presentation of Earl's court, Rochford and River lawns was excellent on the day of adjudication. All are litter-free with good trees, even some mature oaks and ash. The area by fence left wild is a good way to support wildlife. Name plate for Rochford Abbey was admired. It's a pity the building sites here are looking not so well. The blue hoarding, if repainted, would be much improved. Glendara is more mature and also good. There was a sign missing outside of this estate and just some general weeding, and painting touch ups on walls here and there would make a difference. St Patricks park was spotless and there is obviously lots of effort put in here. It had a welcoming feel. New areas like Embassy manor look a bit bare at present, but will hopefully mature well in time. They were still litter free and neat. Whitethorn Grove was well painted and tidy. The cables were extremely neat and well cared for communal areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As you take the exit from the N7, on either direction, the surfaces at the side of the road and edges of the grass are quite rough. Once closer to the village, the planted trees, bollards and name sign make for a very pretty entrance. There are nice roses on the roundabouts, but could take a little weeding to tidy it up a bit. The speed bumps need to have the white markings repainted, as they are difficult to see. Elsewhere, other roadmarkings also could be done. Coming in past Hartnell Green, its very leafy and neat with attractive, and welcoming benches and floral displays. The new lights installed on the bridge were noted.

General Impression:

Kill is an excellently presented, well integrated town. There are wildlife enhancement efforts evident in many places. It still has a village feel, even though there is an expanding population and it could have become a lifeless commuter town. There is a sense of pride and the place is well cared for and loved. There are many stands of fine trees, lending a stately air. It's a very green and leafy village! The links between the Tidy Towns and local businesses are nicely acknowledged on the street sponsored benches. There are lots of places to sit and rest ,and watch village life.

Second Round Adjudication:

It was a most enjoyable experience for your 2nd Round adjudicator to visit the very attractive village of Kill. This is a relative haven of peace in comparison to the nearby bye-pass route. The attractive welcome stones immediately caught the eye on arrival in the village. Landscaping is one of your real strengths and on the day of the visit all landscaped areas looked extremely colourful and well maintained. Good street furniture was noted and this works well with your street side landscaped areas. At the Killeel road junction the two older black and white fingerposts would be improved if replaced. The river area was visited and admired but a little more attention to grass cutting by the seats is suggested. The two grey planters (one damaged) here looked out of place in such an attractive area so the construction of a timber box in which the planters could sit would be an improvement. The nearby Park area is well presented and the landscaping design here allows for winter colour and texture contrasts while at the same time providing some colourful plants. Good luck with your projects for next year when we look forward to returning to the village of Kill again.