

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Kells** Ref: **397**  
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **260**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **30/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	29
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	39
Waste Minimisation	20	11
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>260</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

The adjudicator would like to welcome Kells to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. Your entry documentation was most comprehensive and gave the adjudicator a clear picture of your most active committee in their work for Kells. Your Committee structure seems to be well worked out and congratulations on having two students on your Committee. The adjudicator hopes that they have exactly the same standing as any other Committee members, as their voice is most important for the future of Kells. Support, both locally and from the various agencies, seems to be very good and this is very encouraging for your future in Tidy Towns. The links with the School are also strong and it is great to see the children involved in some of your projects. Thank you also for the two Surveys and the helpful photographs. The adjudicator notes that you did not enclose a copy of your 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan and perhaps, you would let us have this next year as part of your entry.

### **The Built Environment:**

Your submission to the County Council on future local planning is very important and hopefully, your views are being well received in that regard. The repainted Priory Bar, Shirley's Bar and the former Post Office all make a significant contribution to the presentation of the village core. The graphics at the two Bars were very much admired, together with the appropriate colour schemes that have been adopted. The old Forge is improved following the work there. The adjudicator admired the Weighing Scales and the sense of local history that they represent. However, it is suggested that a larger information panel be mounted on the wall behind. Work at the blocked eye of the bridge was admired and this is really a fine structure, with interesting architectural details at river level. The Kells Priory Mill Museum area was visited, but the Museum was closed. This is a most interesting area with a great sense of history. Good landscaping features here also and extensive landscaping greets the visitor to the Catholic Church. It was great to see that the old village Pump is working and this is a great village centre feature. The Priory is a site of which this adjudicator had not heard before, but enjoyed it. The hand painted metal information panel needs to be replaced by a more durable structure, while

the small wicket gate at the car park needed to be repainted.

### **Landscaping:**

The task of planting 1,000 bulbs and 25 new trees is really daunting and the bulbs must have provided so much colour when in bloom. Landscaping is one of the real strengths of Kells and, both larger and many smaller areas, provide bright colours at every turn in the road and street. Many hanging baskets were noted and much admired. New timber fencing at the Hen's Nest amenity area has been noted, together with the new flower beds and extensions to existing ones. One of the many landscaped areas that caught the eye is that at the entrance to the Bring Centre car park.

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

The Crayfish Study is most interesting and the reasons for the decline of Crayfish in the river were noted. The Flora and Fauna Study likewise is most informative – what a rich area you have. The adjudicator is sure that the bird population welcomes the new Bird Boxes! There are so many varied habitats in the Kells area, it is not surprising how rich the area appears to be in wildlife.

### **Litter Control:**

The weekly litter pick ups and the Newsletter to all houses are most positive initiatives. The Bring Centre, apart from the missing official signage and weed growth, was quite well presented. The three tall timber flower barrels here needed to be treated. The scales have been discussed above and a recommendation offered. At the Priory car park, just a little litter was noted, but the problem was not serious. A little litter was noted at the top of the Weir, near the Mill Museum.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The Waste Audit made for interesting reading and it will be interesting to conduct the same Audit in a year's time. Segregation is important and well done on taking on that task. Congratulations too to the garage on the way that waste oil is being handled.

### **Tidiness:**

The washing and painting of signage is commended. The overall impression of Kells is one of extreme tidiness and attention to detail. The painting of field gates was a good initiative, though on the road up to the Priory car park a few, as yet unpainted gates, stood out.

### **Residential Areas:**

Both, Priory Grove and Burgess Court, were excellently presented and great grass areas were much admired in both estates. Beside the School (or is it part of the School?), a very attractive stone building with old lattice windows, stood out. Local pride in the presentation of private houses was very obvious to this adjudicator.

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

The main approach roads were well presented and the fine road surface up to the Priory car park was especially admired.

### **General Impression:**

You have achieved that delicate balance in the presentation of Kells between tidiness and a natural approach. This is difficult to achieve and many villages fail in this regard. Good luck in your work for next year.