

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Piltown** Ref: **299**
County: **Kilkenny** Mark: **263**
Category: **B** Date(s): **29/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	40
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	33
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	15
Tidiness	30	16
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	37
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	263

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Piltown to the 2009 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your completed entry form and useful map. You have a good committee of 10 people and an active meetings schedule. The adjudicator was pleased to read that you are working with all the relevant agencies. Your support to the School in the Green Flag programme is most important. The adjudicator noted that you did not supply a copy of your 3 Year Tidy Towns Plan for Piltown and you might enclose this for 2010.

The Built Environment:

Piltown is lucky in that you have a number of protected structures, but unfortunately you also have some derelict or otherwise closed property. However, it was encouraging to see that you were taking action on the derelict properties and we look forward to the results of your good work on this. At Piltown Engineering, the Copper Beech trees that provide effective screening were admired, as was the freshly painted Community Centre. The grey and white colour scheme works well here. The grey Limestone of the Catholic Church and the well presented grounds blended well together. The attractive seating in the grounds was commended. Both Graveyards were being well maintained. Further down the street, the Church of Ireland building is well framed by mature Yew trees. However, the derelict house and gardens opposite detract from this part of Piltown. At the old garage that is closed, timber screening is suggested pending future development here. The Health Centre was heavily compromised by really terrible litter in the car park. At Campus, the long grass strip in front of the premises needed to be cut. Anthony's Inn dominated the core of Piltown and what a well presented building this is, and attention to detail is obvious. The car park to the rear was also excellently presented. The two colour scheme of the School gates caught the eye and further along the GAA premises, with the landscaping at the building, was attractively presented.

Landscaping:

The roundabout landscaped in 2008 is still well presented and colourful, as were the various flower bed areas noted around the village. The entrance area to Kilkenny Pure Water creates a good first impression here. Along Main Street, the landscaped area, just below College Walk, caught the eye. In several housing estates great individual landscaping contribution were made by a number of residents.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

What is called the 'Linear Meadow' on your map was visited and this is an attractive, well presented area. Your involvement with Bird Watch Ireland is commended and, especially the biodiversity river walk project. How do you intend to work with the biodiversity issue in the years ahead? Again this year, the Kildalton College area provides a great refuge for wildlife and an enjoyable area for visitors. What became the 'Ecology Zone' mentioned in the 2008 Report, in the context of the river? A clean up of the river by Gambia is suggested. If the overall area around Gambia was cleaned up the river could become an attractive amenity.

Litter Control:

The daily litter clean-ups are welcomed, as are the two new bins that you mentioned. In contrast to last year's Report litter control was quite poor in certain areas on the day of the visit. Litter was evident in the Community Centre car park and in the area around Gambia. A little litter was evident at the Bring Centre, though the problem was not serious here. On the road to Stoneybridge, quite bad litter was evident along the roadside and in The Meadows estate as well. The litter situation at the Health Centre car park was serious.

Waste Minimisation:

The statistics that you provided, for Piltown on the Bottle Bank tonnage and the Hazardous Waste collection for July 26th 2008, made for fascinating reading. You indicated that you are working with the County Council on all aspects of waste minimisation, but did not give any details. For next year, you might provide more information on your work.

Tidiness:

Good luck with your work with local bodies on signage. On the road in from the bridge side, some graffiti was present on the large Welcome sign, while at the entrance to the Community Centre car park the black bollards needed to be repainted. The steel structure here at the entrance to the car park would be improved if painted matt black. A very small car parking area was noted in the village beside the small terrace of houses that had bad weeds and littering.

Residential Areas:

Unfinished housing estates are indeed a problem for Piltown. On the road in from the bridge, on the left, weed growth was noted at the base of the trees beside the terrace of house. The red brick building, with Limestone detailing at the cross-roads, is superbly presented. The freshly painted black railing and landscaping show off the house to perfection. At Stoneybridge one of the young trees at the entrance needed to be re-attached to a timber stake. Good landscaping here, with shrubs and trees, was observed. A little litter was present at power Mills and some cut grass at the entrance to The Meadows had not been taken away. The green area in the centre here is quite attractive. Colour variation at the houses in Clonmore Hall makes quite a visual difference here. At Beline Vale, the entrance area was quite untidy and needed urgent attention.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to Piltown generally created a good first impression of the village. On the road, by the GAA, the wide verges were admired, though there appeared to be an overuse of Weedkiller along here. On the way in towards Stoneybridge, some of the verges here were well cut, while other verge areas required urgent trimming. Approaching Piltown from the bridge, the wide verges with the fine trees on the right make for a very attractive area here.

General Impression:

This was your adjudicator's first visit to Piltown and we wish you well in your various projects for next year.