

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killenard** Ref: **1990**
County: **Laois** Mark: **221**
Category: **B** Date(s): **26/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	20
The Built Environment	50	30
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	2
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	221

Overall Development Approach:

Killenard is very welcome to the Tidy Towns Competition for the first time. The towns and villages of Co Laois are noted for their variety and Killenard introduces yet another dimension – a village that is almost entirely new though clearly based on an ancient parish settlement. Please do not be disappointed by the comparatively low mark in this your initial year: this is because there is, of necessity, very little information given on your entry form so it is not possible to assess activities such as interaction with official and voluntary bodies, engagement with school programmes, level of commitment to schemes such as waste minimisation, etc etc. When you have had a year during which to consider policies, develop activities and work on projects, it will be then that significant changes to the marking should occur. For example, where it has been easy enough, through observation, to give a reasonable mark for residential areas, it has not been possible to give more than a notional or nominal mark for a less visible category such as the encouragement of wild life - for which we must rely very largely on your descriptions of what you have achieved. Next year, please supply a more detailed and accurate map on which you should mark all features, sites and locations which should be seen by the adjudicator; why not use the A4-size Rural Place map of Killenard available from the Ordnance Survey, on which you can also pencil-in any additional notes which may be helpful.

The Built Environment:

The charming church in an unusual mixture of rural Baroque and Gothic, with its interesting and well maintained graveyard, is the traditional centrepiece of the village and is beautifully kept up. The statue of St Patrick will need freshening up with paint before next year. Scoil Naomh Eoin is of imaginative design, especially in the use of external timber and cheerful colours. Behan's Gala Store is attractive and welcoming. The hotel and golf resort buildings are the largest and most significant in the village and are well presented.

Landscaping:

The shopping centre is surrounded by pleasant shrubberies and bedding. Eye-catching landscaping was seen leading towards and around the hotel, with subtly selected trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. At Killenard Lodge much attention has been given to ambient planting, while promising landscaping that seemed to have temporarily come to a halt was noted opposite Carriglea. In general, there is a rich profusion of foliage and flowers.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Trees come under this heading: it is very encouraging to see so much tree planting, especially of native hardwoods, and also how the ancient trees of the neighbourhood have been respected. The mark here is a notional one as we do not yet know how you are engaging with other forms of flora and fauna or if you intend to become involved with wild-life projects in the school or in developing nature walks in the neighbourhood. You are invited to give information on these and other activities next year.

Litter Control:

There was very little disposable litter in the locality on adjudication day. Litter is a variable and it will be interesting to see if the standard is maintained. It is good to read that you held a 'clean up day'. The main focus should be on the prevention of littering, through education.

Waste Minimisation:

This mark is entirely nominal as we do not know what steps you are taking under this heading – a category which is becoming more and more important as time goes on. There is no recycling point shown on your map. You may be circulating literature to households and encouraging businesses to reduce waste: if so, please give this information on your next entry form. It would be valuable to make contact with the Local Authority to run joint waste-minimisation programmes in respect of glass, tin, electrical goods, clothing etc etc

Tidiness:

This is an over-average mark and it is probably that you will be able to exceed it next year. The roadside verge and wall at the railway bridge needed attention at the date of the visit. An important clearance at a walled property on the Port Laoise side was seen in progress and its completion will be looked forward to.

Residential Areas:

This mark is also well over average. Individual homes which are not part of housing projects were seen to be presented with pride, most of them with gardens of real personality. Excellent paving and planting was seen at Killenard Lodge estate; the brick facings help to alleviate the alarming uniformity of the estate; it was good to see (and smell) the clover in the lawns; when the trees grow up (in a surprisingly few years) the bare look will be removed. Carriglea is a well set out estate of neo-Georgian homes; perhaps in the course of time individual colour washes will be introduced that will remove the appearance of standardisation, which indeed could also apply to the housing in the vicinity of the hotel.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Good surfaces were seen, with excellent street furniture including railings, gates, lamp standards and internal signposting. Pedestrian crossing were favourably noted. The car parks at the school and the shopping centre were spic and span.

General Impression:

It was a really interesting experience to visit Killenard for the first time and to see how the new buildings are already starting to blend in with the countryside due to judicious planting. Please give full information on your activities and involvements for next year's entry, which will be looked forward to immensely.