

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilfinny** Ref: **1997**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **190**
Category: **A** Date(s): **19/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	22
The Built Environment	50	32
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	5
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	5
TOTAL MARK	400	190

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Kilfinny to TidyTowns on your first entry, on behalf of Kilfinny Community Council. We hope you will find the experience an enjoyable and worthwhile one, not only in 2009 but for future years. Thank you for your entry, received as a hardcopy of an email, no actual entry form was received by this adjudicator. There were some categories in your entry form which were not fully completed and for which marks are available once completed in full; these included: the Built Environment; Landscaping; Wildlife and Natural Amenities; Litter Control; Waste Minimisation and General Impression.

It's positive that ten people from your very small village of less than 200 population have taken the time and energy to form a TidyTowns Committee and aim to improve the village by entering the Competition. The holding of monthly meeting is also good.

We would recommend the preparation of a very basic three year plan for TidyTowns Activities in Kilfinny for the period 2010-2012. This would help to set out aims, objectives and targets for the activities under the various categories listed in the entry form. This could be kept to a very short statement for say 3 targets under each category per annum. A short plan would be sufficient. The planning process could start with a brainstorming session with all members of your committee about what TidyTowns Competition could do for Kilfinny. Another suggestion would be for your committee members to make contact with some other village or town that has competed in TidyTowns for a number of years, the purpose being to visit this village and learn from the experiences of others. Your completed action plan would also serve to inform others as the need arises of your strategy and targets, including the public, the school, County Council, West Limerick Resources, and other agencies. The plan wouldn't need to be prepared by a professional, it can be prepared by your own committee, but views should be sought from the local community. Any plan should take into account existing plans for the area such as a Local Authority's Local Area Plan. Ideally, your plan should clearly explain what you are trying to achieve each year, the approach planned and indicative costs for each

project, any supporting agencies and an indication of the lead partner

Some excellent work is visible in the village in the restoration of the thatch cottages; these are a splendid example of what can be achieved in such a small village. This type of restoration can create a wonderful sense of pride in the village. Your strategy of communication through text, church gate notices and notes in local paper are all very good and positive. Your engagement with the school through a member of the Parent's Council is very good. By working together much more can be achieved, so keep the lines of communication open

The Built Environment:

This small rural village consists of a few residential houses, the Catholic Church, and opposite this the National School. The Church is well maintained, surrounded by silver birch trees with full foliage. Nice features in the village are the lovely thatched cottages opposite the school, and another further up from the school. These private houses are beautifully maintained, and have some nice flower pots outside.

The school is clean, well kept and painted nicely in yellow and terracotta.

Your spring clean-up is of benefit.

Landscaping:

On the way into the village, some nice hanging baskets on telephone polls give a good impression of the village. The grass margins could be improved.

The tubs of flower seen throughout the village are also quite nice.

Private residences, community buildings throughout the village looked well with containers and hanging baskets filled with lovely, colourful bedding plants. When the summer draws to a close, it would be important to replace summer flowering plants with suitable planting for provision of winter colour.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

No information was given in your entry form for this category of Wildlife and Natural Amenities. We would recommend, you could organise a Wildlife Habitat Survey for Kilfinny on indigenous birdlife and wildlife found in the vicinity. Other work could be involved in encouraging the growth of natural wild flowers in the hedgerows around the village, this is a good place to start when planning a bio-diverse habitat, which will nourish and encourage wildlife in the area. When the glossary of wild flowers has been completed, perhaps the local school children and teachers could be involved in the organisation of the survey of existing wildlife in the area and the results could then be used to decide what plants and facilities need to be provided. It is always advisable to seek guidance from someone with good knowledge of wildlife and natural habitats, in this respect the County Council may be able to help with contacts.

Litter Control:

The village is generally litter free, with no signs of litter anywhere. There are no bins evident however, and may help in keeping the area litter free. The spring clean up was obviously of benefit. Involvement with the school in this category would be recommended.

Waste Minimisation:

There was no evidence of any recycle bins in the village. Areas of potential here include, the promotion of best practice; highlighting facilities; schools initiatives like the Green Flag; segregating litter in clean-ups.

It would be good to start the process of encouraging the local school to aim for the Green Flag. This would involve a very serious commitment, not only from the schoolchildren and teachers, but also from the Board of Management, parents and your committee.

Other possible initiatives, which you might consider, to boost endeavours in this area include: the organisation of a waste awareness day and the circulation of waste minimisation brochures to residents in the area.

Tidiness:

As previously stated, on the way into the village, some nice hanging baskets on telephone polls give a good

impression of the village. The grass margins could be improved. The stone walls outside some houses were neat and tidy. The church and grounds, and the school complex were in a tidy condition. The school is well maintained. One area of improvement is to examine the possibility of removal of some overhead cables and wires. This might be a longer term target for your planning of the action plan.

Residential Areas:

The quality of residential properties around the village was generally good with attractive landscaped gardens, hanging baskets and planted containers visible throughout.

Residents of the village obviously take pride in their homes and this was reflected in the high standard of painting and general maintenance of the properties. One particularly attractive feature of Kilfinny is the wonderful and dedicated restoration of the three thatch cottages in the village and others currently being planned.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Nice stone walls lined the approach roads to the village, but were sometimes obscured by overgrowing grass verges, which should be trimmed and tidied.

Some signposts at the approach roads and within the village itself could do with painting or a cleanup at least.

The little green Post Box on the pillar adjacent to one house was a nice feature

General Impression:

Congratulations on submitting your first entry to TidyTowns. This is an excellent initiative for your small and pretty village. It's important to keep motivated and this a very good first step, set some very simple targets that can be achieved within your resources for the coming months. It's vital to have some early targets achieved and this promotes confidence in the work of TidyTowns Committee and will generate support from the general public. The work to date, e.g. on the Thatch Cottages restoration has certainly succeeded in retaining the traditional charm of the village.

With regard to waste minimisation, there is responsibility on all of us to play our part in reducing waste and reusing or recycling where we can. Your participation in the TidyTowns is evidence of your community's commitment to the environment and we wish you success with your endeavours.