

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmeedy** Ref: **223**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **230**
Category: **A** Date(s): **10/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	16
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	18
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	230

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Kilmeedy to the 2009 National TidyTowns Competition and for giving this adjudicator the opportunity to visit your lovely village for the first time. Thanks to your committee who, on behalf of Kilmeedy Community Development Group Ltd., submitted your completed entry form and very helpful sketch map. Well done to your committee of 13 who held 26 meetings over the year. The results of this high level of voluntary activity are to be seen throughout the village and are positive for the community overall.

The support you receive from the Limerick County Council and Pobal reflects the high achievements of the local community. Your communication strategy is very good and this includes the open meetings, use of local radio and newspapers, which are all excellent ways of reaching the wider community and bringing them onboard to help with the effort. Please maintain the engagement with the local school by encouraging the pupils to keep the village and the schools grounds clean and tidy.

As was suggested last year, we recommend the preparation of a very short and concise three year action plan for TidyTowns activities in Kilmeedy. This will enable you to achieve more marks in this particular category, but the plan will also be very useful in your discussions with public and private sector partners for funding opportunities. The plan would set out the Aims and Objectives, and would establish achievable Targets for the three years 2010-2012. It 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.

The Built Environment:

The caring feel to the village was highlighted by the memorial plaque at Pairc Sheamuis Mhic Uaid and the plaque to honour Pat Cregan at the GAA sports complex, outside the village. There was a nice welcome sign to Kilmeedy. The lovely residential area of Fernview was most impressive, with its lovely homes and beautiful landscaping. The School dating from 1928 occupies a central location in the village and it and the Garda Station were well presented. The Health Centre looked very good with its well painted walls and neat silver gate, and handrails. The buildings in the village looked very well overall; the most impressive was the renovated Aras Ide. The building was well painted in deep orange colour with attractive rose beds; black railing and the exquisite sash windows with the lovely floral window boxes completed the picture. The Church was pleasant with its impressive bells and neat grounds with shrubs and planted containers. The removal of the line of trees inside the church grounds was an excellent idea. Businesses in the village were generally in good condition and added to the overall impression of the village. The Glen Bar had attractive plant containers outside and an inviting timber seat. Geary's Garage was well maintained with good signage. The plaque for the Door Threshold to Kilmeedy School was noted. Browne's Bar looked well.

The carefully tended graveyard, with its very impressive gated entrance and lovely church ruin, were testimony to a caring community. The preparation for an open air evening Mass in the cemetery was underway on the day of our visit. The magnificent Holy Year Cross dating from 1950 is a focal point of the village and an attraction in itself. The lovely stone wall and recently erected timber fence to the Cross site were noted. Well done to all concerned on the lovely presentations throughout the village.

Landscaping:

Congratulations on the lovely feel good factor evident throughout Kilmeedy. This was emphasised by the caring attention to the many lovely landscaping features of the area. Suspended floral hanging baskets were to be seen. The excellent displays were a continuation of the great work carried out in 2008. On the Hill Road, leading to the Holy Year Cross, the well constructed wall and neat fencing with the trees and plants between them was attractive. The display, dated 2002, of antique farm machinery and little machinery wheels on the wall was eye catching. The machinery wheel from Pierce of Wexford was also attractive. What we noticed there was an unusual birdhouse nestling in a shrubbery on the Hill Road and some neat seating built into walls around the village. The wall opposite the graveyard with the pretty flower planting overhead looked very well. Landscaping at the new Fernview development was wonderful, with attractive entrance walls and neatly planted shrubs within stone chipped beds. At the Ballinruane junction, the timber Golden Mile 2005 plaque blended well with the landscaped green areas and wooden benches nearby. Well done to all.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The plan to erect a Wildlife Map/Interpretative Panel at Fernview Estate will further increase the attractiveness of this excellent development. As part of that proposed project, it is recommended that your local school children and teachers could help by organising a survey of any existing habitats and 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 and the approach roads were generally litter free and the effort by all concerned is to be applauded. Your programme of daily monitoring in relation to litter control seems to be working well.

Waste Minimisation:

Your relocation of old dustbins for recycling purposes was positive. Although a recycling bank may not be feasible for your village, there are still many actions which could be taken. For example, waste collected during your clean up sessions could be segregated and waste minimization leaflets could be circulated to homes and businesses in the area. For further suggestions consult the Race against Waste literature. The Clothes Bank at the shop complex was noted. This was in good condition and the area was clean.

Tidiness:

The removal of overhead wires and cables would greatly enhance the appearance of the village. This could be a longer term target in the three year plan and one to be discussed with the service providers. The national collection notices of a political party visible on the lamp standards looked untidy.

On a positive note, the stone welcome signs and footpath on the road to Ballinruane Wood were very well presented. Well done on your ongoing weed and litter control efforts and your plans to freshen up some

paintwork, these will further improve the overall image.

Residential Areas:

The many lovely houses in Kilmeedy were a feature in themselves. Well done to the owners of both, the individual and estate houses, and keep up the good work. The Fernview Estate is a credit to all concerned. The entrance walls and the wonderful display in the shrubbery opposite the houses were excellent. Many of the ten homes in the estate have lovely individual gardens. The common grassed area needed cutting, however. The townhouses in the village were well presented, nicely blended colours on the external walls and had lovely displays of window boxes. The wonderful stone cottage with the three dormer windows and stone boundary wall on the Hill Road was an excellent feature. It's clear that the residents of the village take great pride in their homes, with well maintained buildings and neatly planted hanging baskets, and flower containers in evidence throughout.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Most approach roads were in fairly good condition, the bilingual welcome signs were in good condition. The Kilmeedy plaque for the Millennium 2000 AD stone wall was noted, and is well maintained. The Dog Fouling sign was noted. Take care to remove overhanging hedge growth from Village signs at the approach roads.

General Impression:

Well done to your committee and to all the residents, the business people and the community at large of Kilmeedy on all the hard work being done by all. You live, work and spend leisure time in a very attractive village. We would recommend that, in preparation for next year's entry, you include your three year plan. This will help focus your excellent efforts on further areas of improvement. Keep positive.