

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilteely** Ref: **251**
County: **Limerick** Mark: **210**
Category: **B** Date(s): **15/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	24
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	27
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	25
Waste Minimisation	20	7
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	6
TOTAL MARK	400	210

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome Kilteely to 2009 Tidy Towns Competition, your first entry since 2004, we trust your Committee and the Kilteely Community will benefit from your involvement in this year's competition. We hope you will find the experience worthwhile, not only in 2009 but for future years. Thank you for your entry form, even though this was not fully completed.

The 8 members on your committee, on behalf of the village with a population of approx 600 is taking on a difficult, but very worthwhile task if you can harness the support of more volunteers and generate interest from the majority of the residents of Kilteely. You need to create a wonderful sense of pride in the village. It can be difficult to inspire the broader community to get involved. For a start you need to get more commitment from all the committee members. Your meetings need to be held on a more regular basis. In the Entry Form, there is no information supplied by you under the following categories; Landscaping; Wildlife and Natural Amenities; Litter Control; Tidiness; Waste Minimisation; Residential Areas; Roads,, Streets and Back areas; and General Impression. These needed to be completed. It is unfortunate to note that you do not engage with the local school through visits and with your community through public meetings and the local media. By working together much more can be achieved, so keep the lines of communication open.

One way you could achieve higher marks within this category would be to submit an annual plan with your entry next time. 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.

The Built Environment:

This small rural village consists of residential houses, the Catholic Church, and opposite this the National School. The Church is as usual, well maintained, surrounded by nice backdrop of mature trees with full foliage. The car park area is also neat and tidy. A nice feature in the village is the linear seated area with park benches and potted flowers to soften the scene. Some more mature trees on this side add to the nice feel about this area of Killeely. A lovely line of cream and terracotta houses opposite the school are well maintained. Aherns pub looked very well, nicely painted with County GAA colours flying high. The closed pub Cagney's was, however, very untidy and the subject of graffiti painted on the premises. Private houses are beautifully maintained throughout the village.

The Killeely/Dromkeen GAA grounds on the village outskirts were well maintained, neat trimmed hedges to hide the wire fence and 'Cead Mile Failte' gate signs to welcome the visitor or indeed the opposing teams! Weed control procedures is in evidence.

The main task to be undertaken here is to encourage commercial property owners to maintain and paint their properties and keep the surrounding areas neat and tidy. This is not always easy to achieve.

Landscaping:

The tubs of flower and flower beds are quite nice opposite the church area and the seats look very well.

Landscaping on the approach roads was not very good with grass margins in need of trimming. Private residences, businesses and community buildings throughout the village should be encouraged to landscape their properties as far as possible with 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:

As was previously proposed, a wildlife survey is suggested for the village and its environs to identify habitats and to take any necessary measures for their protection in the course of any future development. You might also examine the possibility of developing a nature trail or a walk to "Sli na Slainte" standards, sign posted from the village.

Those magnificent mature trees opposite the church grounds are a wonderful feature in the village and maybe an Information Panel on Trees could be erected nearby to further inform the visitor on the beauty of trees and their importance to our lives.

Litter Control:

On the residential parts of the village, the streets were generally litter free on the day of our visit ,however, there was litter visible on the main street. The presence of empty litter bins may help in keeping the village litter free. The "dog fouling" signs were noticed.

Waste Minimisation:

The presence of County Council recycling bins, seven in number, was noticed. On the day of our visit, this area was clean and litter free. It would be good if you could encourage 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:

The flowers in the church ground look well, as did the flower beds and pots across the road from the church, all helped to portray a tidy image of this part of the village.

The school grounds were also tidy and clean on the day of our visit.

Some commercial buildings were closed down and boarded up. Graffiti on the walls of Cagney's pub looked untidy and should be cleaned. The graveyard grounds were neat and tidy.

The road signposts need to be cleaned and where necessary repainted.

One longer term aim might be to examine the feasibility of removing overhead wires and having these placed underground, not an easy task, but one which would improve the appearance of the streetscape.

Residential Areas:

The quality of residential properties around the village was generally good, with attractive landscaped gardens, some hanging baskets and planted containers visible. Some nice new and older two storey and bungalow residences on the Emly road, new footpaths and stone walls were attractive.

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 area was the residences painted cream and terracotta, which were noticed during our visit. Ballyvouden Crescent was a nice newly developed scheme of houses, but the green area nearby needed some maintenance.

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. All approach roads need trimming, but care must be taken to ensure that this work is carried out in the appropriate time of year to protect wildlife and birdlife.

Signposts within and near the village need cleaning and painting in particular the Hospital/Emly/Pallasgreen sign. These signs all need to be cleaned to be made as legible as possible. The road surface within the village was not in good repair around the main street area, in seems work was not fully carried out to the necessary standards.

Grass margins from the village nameplate to the village itself need cutting and maintenance during the growing season. Illegal dumping of domestic rubbish was visible on the approach road; this is unfortunate and a pity.

General Impression:

Welcome back Killeely after an absence of five years, it is appreciated that the work of Tidy Towns Committees is not easy, but the development of a short three year plan would assist greatly in your future work in the village. Congratulations on nice work you have done to date and a suggestion might be to take your committee on a visit to some other town or village with a long history of involvement in Tidy Towns Competition and examine some of the projects in that village. Keep up the good work .