

# Tidy Towns Competition 2009

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Kilkeeran** Ref: **562**  
County: **Mayo** Mark: **259**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **17/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	37
The Built Environment	50	34
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26
Litter Control	50	40
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>259</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Kilkeeran Residents Association is welcomed to the 2009 Competition. You would appear to have a good working relationship with Mayo County Council, SWMDC, and the Rural Social Scheme. Your work with local schools in relation to nature walks, heritage trails and fishing competitions is commended, those are all excellent initiatives. We appreciate your comments in relation to the timing of the competition and unfortunately, due to the time constraints involved, it cannot take place later in the summer. However, we would like to assure you that floral displays are a minor part of the whole competition and indeed, judges prefer to see permanent planting which ensures year-round effect.

### **The Built Environment:**

We were pleased to hear of your work regarding farm gates and dry stone walling, as these are important elements in the make-up of the village. The houses along roadsides were generally well maintained, and the graveyard and ruined church, with its marvellous view of the peaceful lake, looked very well on the day. Tubs of flowers were on display outside the walls. We look forward to seeing the heritage information boards and work to the graveyard car park.

### **Landscaping:**

The simple presentation of the grass verges along roadsides is what makes Kilkeeran so special. The right balance is struck in ensuring that the verges don't look neglected, while maintaining their natural appearance. The village green at Clogher na Sagart and Gort na Croise looked well. And it is not surprising that it is a popular spot for wedding photos. We were pleased to hear that you are intending to provide year round colour to the many incidental landscaped spaces throughout the roadsides.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The promotion of bio-diversity by means of publication of the natural heritage magazine is an excellent idea. Participating in Mayo County Council's Heritage and Living Landscape Course was laudable and must have been helpful to you in this category of the competition. The planting of native trees is always applauded and we read with interest of your encouragement of residents to avoid using weed killers. We look forward to seeing your bee and butterfly boxes in the future. The development of a heritage trail is also looked forward to. We read with interest of the diversity of orchid species.

**Litter Control:**

The standard of litter control on the day was good. Participation in the anTaisce spring clean is applauded, as is your participation in the Mayo County Council Litter League. We were pleased to hear of inter-generational litter patrol!

**Waste Minimisation:**

The idea of a recycling day is a good one. The promotion of composting among the local residents is an excellent initiative. We look forward to the future recycling and composting area in Maggie's Boreen.

**Tidiness:**

We were pleased to hear of your plans to paint field gates, this will make a big difference to the appearance of the roadsides. The idea of each householder managing their own area is a sensible idea and will no doubt prove effective. The re-painting of the map also makes a difference. Don't forget outbuildings, one along the roadside should be repainted in its traditional green colour.

**Residential Areas:**

Houses along approach roads in the village were generally well cared for on the day. The new limestone wall at the new house was admired. We were pleased to hear that you are encouraging new residents to participate in your work. Teach Ban lived up to its name. Radharc na Saile has a magnificent view to the lakeside.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

We wish you luck in your efforts regarding the potholes, and hope that Mayo County Council will be able to help. The stone bearing welcome signage was admired, with its associated floral display. The ditches and stone walling throughout were admired. The hedgerows sport some magnificent specimens of blackberries, wild roses, honeysuckle, ferns and fuchsia.

**General Impression:**

It was a pleasure to re-visit the village of Kilkeeran, it continues to develop in a subtle way that is most suitable to its location and character. It has a magnificent setting at the edge of Lough Carra.