

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killala** Ref: **551**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **225**
Category: **B** Date(s): **08/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	28
Landscaping	50	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	13
Residential Areas	40	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	225

Overall Development Approach:

Killala Tidy Towns Association is welcomed to the 2009 Competition. You would appear to have a good relationship with Mayo County Council, in terms of personnel, to help with your work and with the Co-op, who have provided materials for your planting work. The communication with the Foroige group regarding litter picking is an excellent idea. You mention that a number of your committee members have children in local schools and that you assist with Green Schools activities. It might be worthwhile to have a more structured relationship in regard to the wildlife and waste management categories of the competition. You mention limited involvement in the community, which is unfortunate; the local people could be of great benefit to you in your work.

The Built Environment:

The streetscape of Killala is quite unique, as the streets of the town twist and turn up and down the hillside location. There are many attractive traditional shopfronts, which should be restored to their former glory. Some 1970's shopfronts look rather dated, unfortunately. Curved canopies should be discouraged and replaced with traditional fabric awnings and plastic signage replaced with ones of a more traditional timber variety. Work was taking place at the fine stone St Patrick's Cathedral on the day. The stone steps and landscaping leading up to the round tower were admired, although the access gate to the tower itself was padlocked on the day. The Catholic Church was admired, set in off the street on its hilltop overlooking the waterside. However, its boundary wall of the car park was quite stained, as were the walls of the road leading up to it. The montbretia in this location must be quite magnificent when in full bloom. Killala Health Centre and Community Centre, in its modern building with slate clad sloped walls, were admired. The Tower Bar was well presented in terms of commercial premises, although it will need re-painting before next year. Damage was noted to the shopfront of the Spinning Wheel. The Playschool was quite fresh, as was the Post Office.

Landscaping:

The town park will be a marvellous asset when complete, set as it is in the centre of the town and accessible from many different locations. It was, unfortunately, still under construction on the day. Your plans for it, including the planting of native trees, are commendable. The gravelled bed in the centre of the village was admired, although it appeared a little weedy. The monuments and wheel-driven pump at Seaview Terrace looked very well. Plans for picnic areas were noted and will be marvellous spots for local and visitor alike.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The information panel on bird-life is looked forward to and will be forthcoming in the not too distant future, we hope. What other activities have you conducted or do you plan in this category? Have you conducted a wildlife survey? You could seek the help of local experts and then put together a wildlife management plan, or sow a wild-flower meadow or create a wildlife garden.

Litter Control:

The standard in this category could have been better on the day, litter being all the more visible in a town of Killala's size. Some papers were noted on the Ballycastle Road and the Crossmolina Road.

Waste Minimisation:

The segregation of litter from your pick-ups is a good idea. What other plans have you for this category of the competition. Do you compost grass cuttings etc? How do you promote the ideas of reducing, re-using and recycling in the community amongst residents, businesses, schools? Have you considered conducting composting workshops?

Tidiness:

Work in relation to derelict sites is vital in a town such as Killala. There are a number of fine vernacular buildings, which should be restored to their former glory. The cleared site beside the cathedral looked particularly unfortunate and promised traditional houses, which seemed to be a contradiction, given the fact that they will obviously be brand new! What was here before? Hopefully, not genuine traditional street houses! An old outbuilding and tin roofed cottage opposite the Catholic Church should be restored to their former glory.

Residential Areas:

The housing estates of the village looked well cared for on the day. Bartra Heights was very well maintained, as was Seaview Terrace. Individual street houses were well maintained. An unusual pebble-dashed house with bullseye window was admired on the Ballina approach. A fine house was noted in a prominent location on the bend of the Crossmolina Road. It sported a fanlight and original sash windows.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads were generally well cared for on the day. The Ballina approach sported a number of advertising hoardings as did the Ballycastle/ Crossmolina Road. These give approach roads a rather cluttered appearance and should be discouraged. The well cut grass and stone planted beds on it created a good impression. The road to the Ceide Fields was quite overgrown with nettles and weeds to verges, although the grass had been mown at the town nameplate, with planter. This road affords the visitor a lovely view of the town, as they awing around the shoreline. The nameplate sign on the Crossmolina Road was in need of some attention. We look forward to the provision of street signage by the Heritage Council.

General Impression:

It was a pleasure to visit Killala for the first time. It is a special West of Ireland town, with all the unique heritage a place such as this has to offer. Do ensure that its unique character is retained.