

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killeevan** Ref: **610**
County: **Monaghan** Mark: **211**
Category: **A** Date(s): **07/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	35
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	23
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	13
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	14
Residential Areas	40	21
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	211

Overall Development Approach:

Thank you for the completed application form and the attached sketch map of what is a very picturesque village nestled away in the drumlins of south County Monaghan. The committee of 10 is obviously very active, if the appearance of the village is to go by. This was the adjudicator's first visit and it was nice to encounter such a tranquil place. Your positive comments about the competition are well received and thank you for those. The 3 Year Work Plan in place was basics, but the actions outlined are very attainable with the support of all the community. It is important to further strengthen the relationship that you have with the County Council and other local bodies, as it will benefit the village in the years ahead. It's a pity that a copy of the Parish newsletter was not included, as these can be very informative on all aspects of village life. Also good to note that the Village Heritage Group is ensuring that the younger generation are well versed in the history of the village and its surrounds.

The Built Environment:

The RC Church is unique in some respects in that the bell tower looks like one you might come across in a Spanish setting. The building was in immaculate condition and the immediate grounds, graveyard (ongoing work nearing completion) and car park across the road were well maintained. Maybe the boundary wall could be painted in a brighter colour in keeping with the Church building itself. St Laebhan's Church Of Ireland is a fine example of a rural place of service, its grounds are well maintained and secluded, and it possesses an excellent notice board. The village is very small and scattered, and any derelict or untidy buildings are very noticeable. Your 3 Year Plan indicates that one of the objectives for 2010 is to continue to liaise with the owners of the abandoned cottages in the village; hopefully, you will get a good reaction to your requests. The work undertaken at the school house was noted

Landscaping:

I would endorse the excellent suggestion made in last years report that you plant tubs with colourful annuals, such as tuberous, begonias or marigolds to identify the extremities of the village. In actual fact, you could examine the possibility of having fulltime planting arrangements that could accompany wooden type village identification signs, placed in suitable locations. The planting of the hedge along the concrete drive way at the Catholic Church, as well as proving practical training tool for those involved, will in time prove very worthwhile addition to the existing planting arrangements presently in place. The trees and hedgerows that are planted around the village and it extremities provide support and cover for wildlife, and it's important that you continue your ongoing maintenance.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

As you rightly state in your application, you have a myriad of wildlife havens available in Killeevan. To maximise the potential of these sites the community employment wildlife awareness programme in the rectory grounds is the key and will give the participants the skills to take on this type of work. The siting of bird boxes around the village would be a worthwhile contribution to the preservation of wildlife, it wasn't clear whether this was part of the future work schedule. Perhaps, the Committee might consider approaching the school principle to ascertain if the school children could become part of a specific wildlife project, such as the proposed duck pond at the bridge. Making contact with the County Wildlife officer is another option that you could pursue, whereby he/she could come and advise on the appropriate measures.

Litter Control:

The village is small and scattered, but not subject to the volume of traffic or indeed people that would create a serious litter problem.

There was very little litter to be seen on adjudication day, so the daily litter collections are paying off. It is interesting to note your comment on why there are no bins to be seen in any part of the village. Keep up the good work and do offer continuous encouragement to school kids, as well as the adult population to be aware of litter in the village and the need to bin it.

Waste Minimisation:

Waste Minimisation is about how to avoid creating excessive waste where possible and then considering environmentally friendly ways of dealing with the waste created. The Committee should consult the Race Against Waste publication and the website to see what actions would be beneficial to Killeevan. It may be worthwhile to invite a representative out to talk to the group in order to impart knowledge that would help you put a project together pre next year's competition. Good positive work being done by the school, in putting in place a very worthwhile recycling initiative, was noted.

Tidiness:

The standard in this category was good and the work that you are doing as a committee is paying off. The following need attention: weed growth at the base of the new footpath and also at the base of the boundary wall at the RC Church. The Killeevan area is afarming country and the associated activity often creates road side residue, especially during the summer season when such activity intensifies. It's important that this residue is cleaned up at intervals. On the whole, signage was clean and visible, however there were a few rusty poles, but it was noted that you are engaging with Monaghan County Council to rectify this.

Residential Areas:

The village in essence is a residential area and for the most part all homesteads were well maintained, with adjoining areas and boundary walls in a very presentable state. Very little else to be added here, except keep doing the basics well as you have done to date. The residents of Killeevan do have a strong sense of Pride Of Place judging by the way they keep their residences.

Hopefully, the previously mentioned derelict houses on the Newbliss Road can be either refurbished or at best tidied up prior to next year's competition.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Entrances to the village were very acceptable in terms of presentation and tidiness. As stated in your submission, the number of roads and link roads is rather large for a village the size of Killeevan. The extended new footpath and recently resurfaced roads create a good impression, but the verges of the footpath should

be cleaned regularly. Killeevan village sign on the Newbliss Road is slightly obscured by an overgrown verge, its important to ensure that these verges are kept in good condition at all times.

General Impression:

The committee is working hard to address issues that can be sensitive in a small community; the key to success is constant communication and encouragement to the community as a whole. You have succeeded in achieving quite a lot, especially in the last few years and your 3 Year Plan is very practical and achievable. The village has potential to do a lot better in the competition, but this takes time and additional local resources. You are wished well in the future.