

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcash** Ref: **523**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **246**
Category: **A** Date(s): **05/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	33
The Built Environment	50	36
Landscaping	50	36
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	18
Litter Control	50	33
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	246

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to the Kilcash TidyTowns Committee for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission and for your map. A hand drawn sketch of the town, which highlights the places you regard as being most important for the TidyTowns Competition, is a great help to the adjudicator. It is a pity that you did not include a 3-5 Year Plan. If you do not have such a plan, the exercise of compiling it would enable you to set immediate and medium term targets for yourselves, would help you decide which local bodies and agencies would assist you with your various projects. As all projects need funding, you would set down in your plan how you propose to fund these various proposed projects. It is good that you get support from the school. Do you get any support from Fás, the Tipperary County Council? Your submission sets out the work you have been doing, but does not describe your future plans in most of the categories. This is a pity. From the visit to Kilcash your contribution to village life is everywhere to be seen.

The Built Environment:

As one comes down the hill into Kilcash, one is surprised to find a village perched on the hillside with such magnificent views. One hopes that this will be a pretty village in keeping with its surroundings, and so it is. Kilcash is a well kept village with pride obvious in the way its buildings are presented. The school is beautifully maintained. The hurlers in the field seem content that they can get out to play, the grass is neatly cut for them. Kehoe's bar occupies a most important position in the village. Its front lights up that square, as do its gardens light up the summer's day. The grotto is also in an important position and is well maintained. The new buildings must be a delight to locals. The impression from your submission is that these replaced derelict buildings. The church is beautiful. It is so unusual to find public toilets in a small village, so well done. They are neatly painted and generally well kept. It was great to see the renovation work at the castle. Then the houses around the village bind the whole area into a cosy, picturesque place in which to live.

Landscaping:

It is obvious that much work goes into landscaping in Kilcash. The raised beds of marigolds etc, barrels with shrubs enhance their surroundings. The amenity area is a gem and it is good to see the shrubbery at the bottom renewed. The cotoneaster bed is ideal ground cover. The area around the church is very well maintained and the tubs, and seat bid one to sit and take in the view. It might benefit your landscaping plan if you surveyed the village with a view to filling one or two places with appropriate shrubs.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The sign said Coillte Cill Chais so the adjudicator took off on a walk. Beautiful surroundings. Peaceful. Wonderful. But how one longed for information. What are the names of the trees in the wood? What animals inhabit this area? Name the birds that are in full chorus. How long is the roadway through the wood? How difficult is the walk? How long will it take to get back to the village? Is this a looped walk? Herein lies a really worthwhile task for your committee for next year. Coillte will surely help. An information board could make this an interesting amenity. The song says: 'Tá deireadh na gcoillte ar lár'. Not true. The woods are alive and full of life.

Litter Control:

You have no note under this heading in your submission. What measures are you taking to reduce waste? You say that the children are helpful in collecting the waste. Very good. Are you taking any measures to reduce the litter? Kilcash is a lovely village and any litter is shameful. Well done on taking part in the anti-litter competitions and on your success.

Waste Minimisation:

Well done on having a Bring Bank so conveniently sited for all to see and use. Well done also to the school on its can collection and award. There are other measures that you might examine. It could benefit your committee to study the booklet 'Race Against Waste'. Such a study would stimulate new waste elimination projects for you. Remember that the emphasis in this section is not on litter control, but on minimising waste in your community.

Tidiness:

Even though the adjudicator visited on a busy day, in the village there was no problem with parking and the traffic flowed freely through the village. The amenity area in the heart of Kilcash looks very well, is being used and is also being well maintained. Such an area would be the envy of many villages because of its location beside the school and its location in the heart of village activity. The railing around the amenity area needs to be looked at. The area where the Bring Bank is located does need attention.

Residential Areas:

It is a pity that the estates do not have name stones to announce them. Mountain View is well maintained. The amenity area alongside softens the influence of the estate right at the heart of the village. Cois Coillte is a fine new estate and its landscaping is developing. The open spaces are well maintained and will become increasingly important as the kids grow. Coming down the hill the terrace looks lovely. Private houses add to the colourful picture.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

As one approaches Kilcash from up on the hill, one is in awe at the views. What a spectacular place in which to live. One wants this village to be picturesque, and it is. Make sure that verges that should be trimmed look trimmed and that what is wild is wild by decision. The area around the Bring Bank is in need of attention. One even doubts that the bottle banks should be so prominent. If they had been positioned further from the road edge they might not be so noticeable. Weeds along the roadside create an unkempt appearance. A project for next year could be to improve the village name signs. Create a welcome to Kilcash atmosphere. The laneway opposite the school to the church is a joy. The walls have been tastefully constructed and maintained. The cottage could be a derelict building, but in fact it is a joyful memory of times passed.

General Impression:

The physical appearance of Kilcash seems to have changed dramatically in recent years. One senses that derelict buildings have given way to new modern buildings. New estates have been built. But the basic nature

of the village remains. It is still perched on the side of a hill with dramatic views. It is still surrounded by acres of woodland. One feels that now the physical changes have been completed, the future of the village lies in its setting. Hence the importance of stressing the wildlife element of life in Kilcash.