

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilsheelan** Ref: **559**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **282**
Category: **C** Date(s): **06/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	39
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	40
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	25
Litter Control	50	40
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	20
Residential Areas	40	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	34
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	282

Overall Development Approach:

Congratulations to the Kilsheelan TidyTowns Committee for participating in the TidyTowns Competition 2009. Thank you for your submission, photos, mission statement and for your map. When putting your map together, remember that the adjudicator may know nothing about the village. So give him/her as much assistance as possible in entering, estate names for instance. The DVD is more a history of a day in Kilsheelan than an asset to the adjudicator. A special thanks for the Newsletter 2008 which not only updated the residents of Kilsheelan on your progress, aspirations and frustrations, but also called them to arms by mentioning specific 'blemishes' that needed to be addressed. Your impressive history in this competition is a source of pride and encouragement to your committee, and one well deserved. The advertisements in that booklet illustrate clearly that you have the support of the business community in your work. Your tentacles of influence reach into all the agencies that shape your village. Most important, the Urban Renewal Project will, hopefully, bring further improvements to the village. The map is most helpful. There is no mention of the school pursuing Green Flag Status. You might propose this project to the teachers.

The Built Environment:

One tries to imagine Kilsheelan before the swell of traffic and the rise of shopping centres in neighbouring towns. It must have been a hive of local activity in a scenic spot. Modern living has taken its toll. Businesses have closed. Change of usage of buildings is obvious. Some buildings have made the transition with little difficulty, others less successfully. Some of the older buildings have disappeared and been replaced by housing. These houses need to be brightly presented to match the surrounding colour. The straight road through the village provided an opportunity to create the impression of a village crescent at the village centre. The curve of the crescent is reproduced by some of the housing estates and creates a pleasant theme throughout the village. The businesses present themselves proudly, Nagles, the Post Office, Robinsons, even the Peugeot garage. The preserved petrol pumps at Robinsons, with their gallon measures and fresh red colour

are a museum piece. The school, GAA grounds, the Health Care Centre is a beautiful part of town, canopied as they are in a woodland of tall and small trees. The Church helps extend the village into the country and looks well. The grotto is a unique experience, a place where the Virgin can be imagined appearing any day now and she would be a lot drier than that day in Knock. The standard of housing adds to a fine built environment.

Landscaping:

The work put into landscaping in Kilsheelan by successive generations is a joy to behold. This present generation continues in that honourable tradition. The varying colours, textures and heights lightened the heart. The maintenance of the many beds is a challenge requiring a team of willing helpers who are in constant demand. The toil is well worthwhile. The hanging baskets, tubs, raised beds, hedges are proof of a community who wants to be proud of their patch. The steps from the car park down to the amenity area give ready and safe access to the wonderful natural resource, the Suir. The arched bridge is used to great effect to continue the river walk in saecula saeculorum. The picnic tables invite one to sit and rest; a litter bin here could be helpful, though there is no trace of litter. In order to take the appearance of the village to its next level, you may have to think in terms of a themed sculptured presentation. There are a few hints of the idea in existence already. This would be a major project. One wonders how the moot over the grotto is maintained so beautifully.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Kilsheelan is a wildlife haven whether one talks of trees, shrubs, birds, water, fish, forests or hillsides. The sounds of chirping birds, shimmering leaves and gently flowing water drown out the hum of the passing traffic. The access created to the river and the opportunities to enjoy that access are admirable. As regards the projects and plans mentioned in your submission, they sound aspirational, vague and generalised. If the effort, that is expended in other areas of the competition, was repeated in the wildlife section your marks would leap. The suggestions of last year's adjudicator are worth examining and taking on board. There may be people in your community who have an informed interest in wildlife and who would be willing to assist you with this section of the competition. When planning your landscaping projects, keep in mind the welfare of birds and bees.

Litter Control:

For such a busy village, Kilsheelan does very well in this section. There is no sign of litter from passing traffic. The only dumping noticed was in Co. Waterford and that does not count, or does it! Great care has been taken in the positioning of bins, as at the bus stops for instance. There is very little litter in the estates either. The measures you have taken in pursuing dumpers are proving effective. Littering or dumping would scupper your aspirations for a beautiful Kilsheelan.

Waste Minimisation:

The solar powered school sign is a worthwhile waste minimisation project. Any engagement with the school should yield positive results at home. The clean-up after the bonfire sounds like a dubious waste minimisation project. Surely the bonfire has the opposite effect on the environment and segregation of the waste should happen before the bonfire. 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, is not on segregating the waste, but in reducing it.

Tidiness:

The overall impression of Kilsheelan is of a tidy, cared-for village. 'This is our home and we love it here' is the impression one gets throughout. You care for those elements that you can control. Most fronts are carefully and regularly painted, so where there is need for either paint or power washing, it is noticed. The road markings are clear and clean. The traffic calming measures seem to be effective in slowing traffic and in alerting the driver of a busy junction. But the traffic is a constant companion. There is plenty of provision for the pedestrian attempting to cross the road. Great efforts are made to control the weeds throughout.

Residential Areas:

In general, the residential areas of the village are of a fine quality. One or two estates do need renewal. Abandoned cars give rise to a threatening feeling of unease and assistance should be sought to stamp this practice out. Sometimes the road surface needs attention, as at Slievenamon View. The new estate at Slievenamon Road holds great promise already. Where residents decide to paint their doors the varying colours compliment the landscaping colours. But it is important that this estate is fully completed. One could not sufficiently praise the efforts of the residents of Wood Crescent, Brook Drive and one would name others, if the names were provided. It is a pity that some estates do not have name signs, as at that delightful crescent on the Clonmel side of the village or the radiant terrace of two storey dwellings in the village opposite the Post Office.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Kilsheelan is a breath of fresh air, no matter what direction one arrives from. On both sides of the N24 one is greeted by the name signs, by the cared for appearance of the road verges, the hedges, by the tree planting, by the beds of summer colour. The Fethard road is also beautifully cultivated. Blackthorn hedging in various parts of the approach roads is almost a theme and is well maintained. The views are spectacular from the Church and cemetery. The curved sweep past the Church is full of character. This adjudicator had no problem with the railway station, the level crossing adding another dimension to village life. The approach road from County Waterford is also full of character. One notes the positioning of the welcome signs to Kilsheelan, as if a statement is made that the stately castle entrance does not belong to the village and Waterford weeds, along that beautiful stone wall, belong to Waterford people. The colour, the different textures of the planting, the appearance of the houses, the varied treatment of the entrances to estates, the wide grass margins, the landscaping make Kilsheelan a lovely place to pass through or to visit.

General Impression:

Maintaining your standards in Kilsheelan is an intensive work project. One can readily observe the maintenance work that has to be done, just to maintain the standards. Luckily you have a big committee. You also seem to get great support from the people in the various estates. One cannot imagine how you would get through the work without the support of outside agencies. Hopefully, that support will continue. Kilsheelan is a gem. Long may it continue to be so.