

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmacthomas** Ref: **855**
County: **Waterford** Mark: **226**
Category: **C** Date(s): **09/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	27
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	31
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20
Litter Control	50	30
Waste Minimisation	20	6
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	30
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	226

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2009 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included the completed application form and a map. A more useful map would identify the streets by names and the locations of the various works carried out annually. We would encourage the 12 member Kilmacthomas committee to engage the help of other agencies, particularly in relation to the production of a three year town enhancement plan that would provide a focus for the committee's efforts and assist in adjudication. It is to be hoped that by widening the net in relation to applications for development assistance, that this approach will pay dividends in time. Kilmacthomas is an attractive rural Irish town with its main street sloping down to a charming bridge spanning the river Mahon. Best wishes for your 'Craic in Kilmac' proposal for this year.

The Built Environment:

Like many Irish towns, Kilmacthomas gets its unique character from the pattern and shape of its own unique location. It was noted that within the town there were a number of both residential and commercial buildings ready for redevelopment. It would be a well worthwhile undertaking for the committee to have these buildings architecturally assessed with a view to their proper conservation and regeneration. Existing features such as doorways, sash windows, and chimney stacks should be particularly noted. Last year's report highlighted many of the commercial premises in the central core and all of these premises again looked well and were nicely presented. An Leabharlann looked well and Keigery Gallery was particularly charming with its appropriate colour scheme, hanging baskets and high quality hanging sign. The adjudicator noted that road works were ongoing throughout the town centre and looks forward to restoration work to roads and footpaths on completion. At the Square, Morrissey's, The Arches and Centra, with its attractive shrubbery to the front, all looked well.

Landscaping:

The highlight of the town centre was the attractive array of colourful flower arrangements that span the river on both sides of the bridge. There is a wonderful view of the town park from the bridge and the attractively converted mill here is a headline for future redevelopments. The park itself was well presented with neatly cut grass, clean pathways and well maintained shrubberies. On the day of adjudication ongoing maintenance work was being carried out close by the Salmon Leap and the wonderful arched railway viaduct. Some of the incidental open spaces are planted to a very high standard throughout the town and the linear development between the bridge and St. Declan's Community College was a particular highlight. Opposite St. Anne's, the triangular planted area and hanging baskets were admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is good to see that hedgerow management is being carried out in conjunction with the wildlife good practice guidelines. The Slí na Sláinte route is a good addition to the enjoyment of the town environs. It is good to see that both schools have achieved Green Flag status. As a rural town, Kilmacthomas is rich in natural wildlife, green areas and habitats and, perhaps a good way of raising awareness of environmental issues amongst the local community would be for the committee to further liaise with the Green Schools programme to encourage local wildlife surveys. The results of such a survey could then be illustrated on bilingual, wildlife boards providing further interesting information points in the town.

Litter Control:

Your annual spring clean and weekly litter pickups are good initiatives. Your proposal for a strengthening of the liaison with the schools and engagement with the local business community can only lead to an immediate improvement in this category. To take your activities a stage further under this heading, you might segregate litter during litter picks for recycling. A litter survey to identify sources might also be undertaken with a view to developing an effective litter strategy and, therefore cut down on litter picking.

Waste Minimisation:

At the Bring Bank, the signage was clean and well presented, as were the receptacles, but a small bag of rubbish was discarded nearby and some loose litter was also noticeable in the area. The adjudicator acknowledges the efforts of your committee to heighten the standard of maintenance at the Bring Centre and recognises that many centres continue to have problems at these facilities.

Tidiness:

The adjudicator again acknowledges the ongoing road works being carried out throughout the town and understands that disruption under this heading is inevitable for the time being. In the meantime, the committee should concentrate on the comments in last year's adjudicator's report under this heading. Both the Fire Station and the public toilets are in need of some freshening up and the toilets need to be refurbished internally.

Residential Areas:

A number of housing schemes were well presented. Both Hillview and Hillside Crescent have particularly attractive announcement signs. The grass areas were neatly manicured and generally well maintained and a number of private garden presentations were admired. Road surfacing was in need of improvement in some areas. The Respond Scheme at the Rainbow Community Centre is nicely designed and provides an attractive sense of place. It is to be hoped that, with additional tree and shrub planting, the nice feeling of enclosure will be further enhanced. The adjoining colourful play ground looked very well, but the discarded rusty tanks on the unkempt ground opposite the entrance should be removed. Your proposal to expand the committee by engaging with residents of the individual housing schemes is a worthwhile initiative. We wish you well in this endeavour.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Once again, the loose stone wall with its attractive seating area at the Convent looked well and provides a lead and a standard for the design of stone wall developments on approach roads, particularly in the more rural areas of the town. Announcement signs were generally well presented on the approach roads and this nice feature contributes to a welcoming atmosphere for the visitor.

General Impression:

The historic and architecturally attractive town of Kilmacthomas is undergoing much town centre servicing development at present and this new work will be complimented by the parallel hard work of the committee. We wish you well for the future.

