

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmuckridge** Ref: **890**
County: **Wexford** Mark: **232**
Category: **C** Date(s): **17/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	32
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	17
Litter Control	50	31
Waste Minimisation	20	17
Tidiness	30	4
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	29
General Impression	10	7
TOTAL MARK	400	232

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the 2009 National Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for your submission, which included a clear outline of your development approach, a map, photographs and a well documented list of the unique problems facing your community. The Kilmuckridge committee are to be congratulated on engaging the help of other agencies including FÁS. It is noted that the net is widening in relation to applications for development assistance and no doubt this approach will pay dividends in time. Your continued liaison with the local schools is to be commended and the results will no doubt prove to be both educational and effective.

The Built Environment:

Kilmuckridge village has undergone huge changes over the past number of years. Most of this development has occurred outside the village core and the progress of housing development was at that time rapid. The economic slowdown now occurring gives some time for reflection. Your community would benefit hugely from a village enhancement plan particularly in relation to landscaping. The strategic planting of trees and shrubs could quickly restore enclosure and street lines where these have been disturbed or inappropriately developed. We note your comment concerning the chestnut tree and hope you are successful in the quest to retain it. There are a number of attractive vistas looking into the village core from higher surrounding points and the study of these vistas would quickly establish where tree planting would be most appropriate. Perhaps you could seek assistance from Wexford County Council for an environmental study of this type. Last year's adjudicator highlighted a number of well presented commercial premises. These were again well presented in the village core with Seán Óg's complex, consisting of the hotel and holiday homes, being a feature on the outskirts. Also highlighted were some problem areas that concern your community and it is good to see that much progress has been made particularly with the demolition of the old creamery.

Landscaping:

There are a myriad of landscape developments dispersed throughout the village and these areas are generally well presented. The colourful planted flower tubs at Boggans on a nicely paved area and the planting on the green opposite look very well. The raised linear plant box with attractive shrubs at Londis gives a good definition line to the street. The green area at Greenwood Avenue was a highlight and the grove of newly planted, staked trees was admired. The green area opposite Countrylife is welcoming here. The bulb planting programme involving the RSS worker and FAS was a great initiative which no doubt gives a colourful start to the season in springtime. Well done on this effort!

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is good to see that the school is engaging with the committee in the development of a wildlife project at the school. Perhaps this contact could be further developed with a view to further expansion of this agenda. In view of the fact that the village has many natural amenities and wildlife areas, it would be a well worthwhile exercise for the committee to examine this aspect of your development. In order to increase marks under this heading, perhaps the committee could organise a competition sponsored by a local organisation to encourage them to carry out a survey of local wildlife. It would be most beneficial if this information could be visually displayed by means of a bi-lingual display panel, to enhance local awareness. Perhaps a good location for this would be the riverbank.

Litter Control:

Your litter campaign is proving to be successful as only a small quantity of litter was observed throughout the village on the day of adjudication. It is good to see that you are receiving the necessary co-operation from local businesses, the schools and Wexford County Council. This is a particularly important agenda in a village that welcomes visitors and both the village proper and the nearby beautifully presented Morriscastle Strand looked very well on the day of adjudication.

Waste Minimisation:

The Bring Centre is prominently located in an accessible place and was reasonably clean and well presented on the day of adjudication. At the school, the paper recycling facility was noted, as was the clothing bank at Bits 'n Bobs. It is to be hoped that this programme will be developed in the coming years and that more initiatives from the Race Against Waste website will be adopted in the future.

Tidiness:

As previously mentioned some progress has been made on the tidiness issue but some problems still remain. At the village hall, dedicated to the Gaels of Kilmuckridge, some tidying to the front area is required and the poorly presented notices should be removed. Opposite, a large heap of topsoil looks rather unsightly. At Lady D's, a poorly presented loose sign was attached to a pole and blowing in the wind. At Murphy's garage some boundary screening would be an improvement.

Residential Areas:

Kilmuckridge now has a large number of individual housing schemes and it would be a good idea for the committee to compile a list of these. This would be a useful undertaking with a view to making contact with the individual estates. A number of the older schemes are maturing well and many well presented private gardens were admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads were generally presented to a good standard. A number of these have a nice rural flavour with fences being enhanced by strands of wild flowers and attractive hedgerows. A number of the announcement signs were slightly obscured by overgrown trees and these would need to be trimmed back. The Morriscastle Strand Road has a particular charm bounded by stone walls, nicely maintained grass margins and some fine individual mature trees.

General Impression:

Kilmuckridge is a pleasant rural village close by some very attractive coastal amenities. Considerable development took place in an accelerated fashion in the past few years leaving the village in need of re-organisation and a new focus. It is good to see that the Tidy Towns has re-formed and no doubt your renewed interest will have huge benefits in the years ahead. Well done on this effort!