

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilkee** Ref: **72**
County: **Clare** Mark: **288**
Category: **C** Date(s): **07/07/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	47
The Built Environment	50	38
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	33
Litter Control	50	38
Waste Minimisation	20	12
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	28
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	288

Overall Development Approach:

The adjudicator would like to welcome Kilkee to the 2009 TidyTowns Competition. Thank you for your most detailed entry form. The file of photographs, plans, documents and the CD were all most useful during the adjudication process. The adjudicator had not visited Kilkee for many years and was highly impressed with the progressive nature of the town. Kilkee has certainly moved on from the old image of the traditional seaside resort. The TidyTowns Plan document was examined. It is suggested that the Plan identifies projects under each of the ten adjudication categories by year. The loss of the two seasonal workers is indeed most unfortunate and hopefully a resolution to the problem will be agreed. Your Committee of 20 people involves the key stakeholders in the town and this is an excellent approach. The meetings strategy is well thought out an obviously effective. Your liaison process with the Schools is good and these links are so important to TidyTowns. The Action Plan for the Kilrush Road 2002 was read.

The Built Environment:

The extension to the Bay View Guesthouse and Bar was noted and congratulations on the successful programme of dereliction removal at the Milltown Road and East End junction. Work at the old Clare Motor World was also examined and the improvements noted here. The reroofing of the seafront shelters was examined and good work noted here. The plans for the Courthouse are imaginative and we look forward to examining future progress. Colaiste Phoball on the Loop Head Road was attractively presented and very tidy. Some landscaping here would add additional colour. Waterworld was busy on the day of the visit and some weed growth to the front of the building needed attention. Quite a number of buildings in the town centre impressed and this included the attractive Post Office. The modern Sentosa Spa building is progressive in design. At the GAA premises the blue and white colour scheme was admired. The Patrick O'Shea premises on O'Connell Street stood out for the quality of the frontage including the lettering. Kincora bed and breakfast has adopted a very good colour scheme with excellent graphics.

Landscaping:

The controversy in respect of Allender's Field was read and the adjudicator understands the issues here. The site was visited and this is indeed potentially valuable wildlife resource. The standard of maintenance was reasonable though litter was noted in a quite a few parts of this area. The simple yet attractive seating was admired. Thank you for the Management Plan for this area which was studied with interest. The spring flowering bulbs in O'Connell Street added valuable colour here as did the replanting of the many flower beds. Hopefully your future plans for the Poly Tunnel will work out – an excellent initiative. Well done on the provision of the handrail at Syke's Corner. The West Clare Railway Park is a wonderful concept and so appropriate and we look forward to future progress with interest. Quite a number of landscaped areas were noted in and around the centre of Kilkee. The area at the Catholic Church caught the eye and is most successful.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The improvements to parking near the Golf Course and Boathouse have been noted together with the restored wall along Strand Line. Some wildlife interpretative panels were noted such as that the end of the Newfoundland road which needs improvement. There is however great potential for additional interpretation and not just limited to the marine environment. Have you considered a wildlife survey of the Kilkee area?

Litter Control:

Kilkee was busy on the day of the visit and the adjudicator was impressed with the level of litter control achieved. The Youth Club did good work on the Beach clean up. The Bring Centre at the car park below the Golf Club would be improved if the units were power washed. The official signage was not in place. In O'Connell Street the Bring Centre was also missing its official signage. Some litter was evident on Well Road and occasional occurrences were noted elsewhere but the situation was far from serious.

Waste Minimisation:

You appear to be very active on the issue of recycling and the recycling charges issue has been noted. This category is also about the reduction of waste generated in Kilkee. Can you look at the town for next year and see what waste reduction possibilities might exist. This will involve working closely with local businesses.

Tidiness:

The shelters now reroofed make a great contribution to tidiness. The car parks visited were found to be tidy and well laid out. The large cobble lock area on O'Connell Street successfully breaks up car parking here and looks very presentable.

Residential Areas:

There are many estates and individual houses in the Kilkee area and the visit allowed the adjudicator to get a general indication of overall presentation. Quite a number of the estates were visited and name signage appeared to be missing in many cases. The bay windowed houses along Marine Parade were much admired as were the houses in O'Connell Street. A very good use of colour was noted here. Good landscaping at the entrance to Pairc Mhuire caught the eye though the back areas were a little untidy. Well presented houses on Grattan Street also stood out. In many instances good colour schemes were noted on many houses and quite a lot of fresh painting was admired.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

On some approach road verges and roadside banks needed cutting and trimming. Watch out for road boundary walls on approach roads that need to be painted perhaps twice each year on a busy approach road. The disabled parking spaces are warmly welcomed and the upgrading of a number of footpaths. On the Dunlicky road high grass and weeds looked quite untidy.

General Impression:

The adjudicator was delighted to have the opportunity of visiting Kilkee. We wish you well with your excellent projects planned for next year and the years ahead.