

Tidy Towns Competition 2009

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Killimer** Ref: **74**
County: **Clare** Mark: **240**
Category: **A** Date(s): **28/06/2009**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2009
Overall Development Approach	50	38
The Built Environment	50	33
Landscaping	50	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	23
Litter Control	50	34
Waste Minimisation	20	0
Tidiness	30	19
Residential Areas	40	25
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	25
General Impression	10	8
TOTAL MARK	400	240

Overall Development Approach:

We are pleased to welcome Killimer to the Tidy Towns Competition for 2009. Thank you for submitting the completed entry form, together with the very useful maps.

It is good to note that Killimer Tidy Village organisation has managed to retain 8 active members on the committee and hold regular monthly meetings. The use of newsletters and local press to reach the wider community are appropriate methods of communicating and we also recommend that you organise occasional public meetings. Your hard work has obviously been instrumental in earning the support of Clare County Council and Shannon Ferries.

Your visits to the School and the involvement of schoolchildren in the Spring Clean-up are excellent ways of encouraging the next generation to take responsibility for their environment.

Well done on putting together a 3 year plan as recommended. One observation that we would make on the Plan is that it doesn't contain any specific timeframes for various aspects of the projects. It would probably be easier for you to achieve goals if you try to specify time required for the individual elements of the work. We wish you every success with your activities.

The Built Environment:

Killimer is in a very enviable position, overlooking the Shannon Estuary and it has a good mix of individual detached homes, farmhouses, cottages and of course the commercial businesses and ferry port. It was good to note that the local graveyard was being maintained.

Business premises which impressed during our visit included the ivy covered Old Brogue Pub, the Texaco service station, Stor Cailin Ban and Cois na Sionna. The ferry offices and pier area were well maintained and tidy.

The Cáilín Bán (Colleen Bawn) feature was thought provoking and while it had some bedding plants, we felt it could be enhanced by further floral displays.

Woodview Estate and the various individual homes throughout Killimer were attractive and well presented, a credit to all.

Landscaping:

Landscaping throughout the village was of a good standard. We particularly admired the lovely trees standing guard over Woodview Estate; the established shrubberies along the roadside near the Colleen Bawn feature and the landscaping at the ferry area.

The Fuschia shrubs alongside the new pavement and at Nolan's Cross were very appealing and provided a welcome touch of colour.

We felt that Nolan's Cross holds potential for further colourful flowerbeds and perhaps some additional colourful displays could be added to the grass verges on the road leading down to the Ferry.

Well done to everyone involved in planting and maintaining displays in the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

It is encouraging that you are taking onboard recommendations from last year's report and we note that you are investigating the feasibility of preparing wildlife information panels and will be consulting a wildlife expert regarding the encouragement of further wildlife. These actions should produce very positive results and could lead to other related projects. You might consider broadening the involvement of the community by inviting volunteers to undertake work under the guidance of the wildlife expert.

We commend your intention to ensure that plants are suitable for the encouragement of wildlife and perhaps an area might be identified for the growth of a natural wildflower meadow.

Litter Control:

Your continuing policy of getting individual committee members to take responsibility for designated areas seems to be worthwhile and is working well. In spite of the traffic queuing for the ferry, the area was almost litter free, a credit to all concerned.

It is important to note that this category is not only marked on the absence of litter during an inspection but it also includes the planning process for litter control. Additional marks can be achieved by submitting a litter control plan as part of the entry submission. Areas to be considered under such a plan would include a survey of problem areas, key litter generators, number and locations of litter bins and schedule of litter collections. Suggestions for resolution of problems, clear targets as the plan is rolled out and a clear method of monitoring progress could also be included.

Waste Minimisation:

We noticed that you did not provide any comments under this category in your entry form.

The Race Against Waste is growing in importance and everyone has a vital role to play in this area. Last year's report did contain a couple of suggestions (providing community guidance on methods of reducing waste such as segregating litter during clean-up events and working with key business interests). Other possible initiatives which you might consider, to boost endeavours in this area, include the organisation of a waste awareness day and the circulation of waste minimisation brochures to residents in the area.

We would recommend that you consider undertaking at least one project.

Tidiness:

During our visit Killimer was generally quite tidy with the new pavement well presented and grass verges neatly cut but unfortunately, the stone bilingual sign on the approach from Kilrush was almost hidden behind a pile of chippings. The road to the ferry and the pier section were looking well. We did notice that the Shrine at the roadside near the graveyard was still in need of attention.

Residential Areas:

Killimer has a good blend of farmhouses, commercial businesses, established cottages and some attractive and relatively new individual homes. On the approach from Kilrush, we were impressed by the attractive Woodview Estate with its well finished roads, pavements and lighting and some splendid trees standing on the well maintained grass verges. The new pavement linking this development to the heart of the village is an excellent piece of infrastructure. Well done to all on the presentation of your Killimer homes.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

Approach roads were generally in good condition and signage throughout the village was appropriate. The new barrier at the bridge is an excellent safety measure and hopefully its efficiency will never have to be tested. As previously mentioned, the chippings in front of the stone bilingual sign on the Kilrush approach should be removed. It was good to see the new sections of stone wall along the roadside

Congratulations on the overall presentation.

General Impression:

Although Killimer is a small village it manages to punch well above its weight because of the very popular ferry service to North Kerry which has ensured that priority has been given to the provision of necessary infrastructure. However, the level of traffic accessing the area could also impact negatively on the village and it is important to protect the quality of life for the residents. Traffic management must be constantly monitored and traffic calming measures installed if required. The new crash barrier at the bridge is an excellent addition to the infrastructure.

We appreciate your concern about illegal encampments and dumping at Rochford Shore and these problems will require good co-operation between your community and the County Council. Much can be achieved by organisations working together with a common purpose. Your proposed feasibility study of the area should produce some positive recommendations and we wish you every success with the task ahead.

Well done on the progress you have made so far and we hope to get an opportunity to view more of your endeavours in the future.