

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilmallock** Ref: **121**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **286**  
Category: **C** Date(s): **13/06/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	44	44
The Built Environment	50	39	40
Landscaping	50	40	41
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26	26
Litter Control	50	33	34
Tidiness	30	16	16
Waste Minimisation	20	15	16
Residential Areas	40	28	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	30
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>286</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Kilmallock is most welcome to the 2012 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your typed application form and additional information. The liberal use of photographs in your application is most welcome as these present in a visual way your projects and problem areas. You state you have 10 members on your committee, although you do not state the level of additional voluntary commitment. Nor do you list the agencies with which you are in contact or your modes of communication. These are important to the adjudicator as points are available to those who are continually trying to involve all sectors of the community. Your involvement with Kilmallock Partnership is noted and no doubt fulfils the ends just described.

As Kilmallock is a decent sized town your communication with the broader community is vital. Do you have a Facebook page? Distributing copies of this report to homes and businesses (perhaps electronically to minimise resource use) may be useful in attracting support.

Some information may have been lost from your work plan as your spreadsheet was printed across two pages. Where target completion dates were included it would seem that they are in 2011. Are those that are blank on-going? Do consult the Tidy Towns Handbook on the use of a three-year plan as it contains much useful information. That said it is clear you are taking a strategic approach.

You do not mention involvement with your local schools under this heading. This is most important but I read of school participation in a river cleanup so perhaps this has been an omission.

### The Built Environment:

Well done on the rebuilding of the stone wall at Glenfield. It is great to read how these projects can be

completed at a community level. You provide photos of a number of derelict buildings, old and new, in the town. Is this a full inventory? Much improvement works had been completed in this regard of late. After four years it finally seems that ghost estate are getting some attention.

The town wall conservation project is excellent and you are most fortunate to have such a historic feature in your town. Has there been community/Tidy Towns involvement in this? Do you plan any interpretive information/events?

The local area office/library complex is a wonderful modern counterpoint to the more antique buildings across Kilmallock. The open plaza here is clean and welcoming.

Lord Edward Street looks well with the number of properties standing out such as AIB (although dead trees need replacing) and the Old Stand. Dereliction does seem to be widespread and while your efforts here are acknowledge a systematic approach is needed. Limerick county council has powers in this regard and should be consulted.

Heritage structures add great character to the town. The interpretive panel of Blossoms Gate needs to be replaced. The clean flags on Gortboy service station were admired.

Sarsfield Street also looks well with clean tricolours enlivening the scene. Natalie's bistro was admired. Signage at the gable wall of the credit union needs attention. Its facade and especially its protruding clock were in good shape though. The 'green town' Kilmallock mural was admired but has unfortunately been damaged.

The Roman Catholic Church, which dominates the Kilmallock skyline was looking well on adjudication day. Colaiste Iosaef is looking well although its green flag is getting a little tatty. The Dominican priory is an amazing structure and is impressive in its presentation.

### **Landscaping:**

Well done to Scoil Mocheallog and Tidy Towns on their school garden project. A photo here would have been most welcome. It has sounds like a wonderful initiative.

The area in front of the library is a nice space that combined hard and soft landscaping. One of the birch trees here is not doing well and may need to be replaced. Don't forget to remove rubber ties on these trees as they will inhibit further growth.

Planting tubs with colourful displays were admired in a number of locations e.g. at the junction of Gortboy service station. Small green areas, very well tended, with trees and shrubs serve this location very well. Occasional hanging baskets add some colour on Sarsfield Street e.g. on Abbey laundrette.

The Riverside Park was looking well on adjudication day with well mown lawns. Nice to see a margin left for wildlife, birdlife was abundant in these areas. This area was also found to be practically litter free, well done.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

Kilmallock is indeed well endowed with natural amenities. This is set in a landscape that is rich in human history. This lends plenty of opportunity to develop connections between the past and present, and human and non-human layers of Kilmallock. You are clearly engaged in a number of projects to raise awareness of natural history, most notably with Kilmallock national school but also erecting bird and bat boxes. The have the latter been occupied?

It is recommended that you aim for a holistic approach to this category by drafting a survey of your town. This would identify and map all valuable habitats such as the river but also hedgerows, mature trees and green spaces. Your picture shows hogweed removal but no further detail was given, was this a Tidy Towns initiative? It was noted that it grows still along banks at the river. It is a persistent alien invasive species and can be harmful to humans. Sadly the wildlife panel by the river has been vandalised.

### **Litter Control:**

It is clear that you are active in the control of litter on a number of fronts. Did you participate in the national spring clean? Your involvement with local schools is most welcome in this regard. Your photos say a lot and it is great to see not only what has been achieved but the level of participation.

Overall levels of litter control in the town were excellent with only minor issues noted. This seems to have been a marked improvement over recent years and for this effort you are commended.

**Tidiness:**

Your proactive approach to issues of building appearance is commended. Do you have local businesses onside in this campaign?

The lack of overhead wires is a major advantage to Kilmallock, freeing the skyline of clutter. Elsewhere the town is mostly very tidy although a few small issues present themselves. This Christmas decorations on Centra should be taken down after the festive season. A number of street signs are bent or 'to the Kildare side'. Lamp standards were admired for their design and modest height. Railings around Texaco need attention. Kerbing is generally weed free although some hard to reach places stand out e.g. on the arch beside Sheerins furniture. Christmas decorations on the national school detract from the otherwise fine appearance of its grounds.

**Waste Minimisation:**

Your Green Town initiative is most impressive. Many towns struggle to move beyond recycling but in Kilmallock you clearly understand the significant challenges in reducing resource use. Waste and water auditing for businesses is excellent. Could this be applied to domestic homes? The use of interns to develop the project is a most innovative approach. How will you perpetuate the message once this project has been completed?

Your school's green flag should be given full acknowledgement here. Waste reduction was the first issue they looked at and much of what they have learnt could be applied across the community. How about holding a composting workshop? Are there fora where people can exchange their waste items?

**Residential Areas:**

Well done on revitalising your residents associations in Riverview and Radharc na Coille. Maintaining enthusiasm is always a challenge but with the support Tidy Towns is providing you seem to be on a winning path.

A small cluster of houses off Main Street lack a name while landscaping here needs some attention.

Ash Hill Manor has beautiful finished homes but the dilapidated 5 m high boards at its entrance create a bad impression while kerbing here needs to be weeded.

The terrace on Sheares Avenue is beautifully green with its maturing trees and section of mediaeval wall. The old Irish cottages on Wolfe Tone Street are a hidden attraction.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

Entering Kilmallock from Limerick direction the visitor is presented with a welcoming vista of spires and heritage buildings nestled in a soft landscape of green. Signs and approaches need some attention however and perhaps consideration should be given to something warmer than the usual black and white nameplates. Some signage just needs to be washed. Elsewhere verges need trimming. Kilmallock cycles present a nice use for an old building. The car park in playground to the rear here are in good shape with no litter.

**General Impression:**

Kilmallock was a pleasant surprise for this adjudicator with much to see and do. You have made the most of your assets, not least of which is your own hard work and dedication. Best of luck!