

# Tidy Towns Competition 2012

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilteely** Ref: **251**  
County: **Limerick** Mark: **243**  
Category: **B** Date(s): **12/06/2012**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2012</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	29	29
The Built Environment	50	33	33
Landscaping	50	31	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20	21
Litter Control	50	28	29
Tidiness	30	23	24
Waste Minimisation	20	8	9
Residential Areas	40	29	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	30	30
General Impression	10	7	7
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>243</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Kilteely is most welcome to the 2012 Tidy Towns competition. Many thanks for your completed entry form, map photos and additional information. You are indeed fortunate to have 15 on your committee for village of this size and this is reflected in the large increase in points that you have enjoyed in recent years. It is noted that you are engaged with a variety of agencies that provide you with assistance such as Limerick county council and Ballyhoura but also small groups within your community. This is a great approach as it casts the net wide and fosters an inclusive community. It is noted from previous reports that you once had a three-year plan but that this has expired. The plan shows that you were thinking for the medium term and that there is a strategic element to your work. It is hoped that you can look at this again and perhaps produce a new three-year plan in 2013.

It is wonderful to read how you are continually engaging with your local school. Meanwhile you have a busy schedule of meetings and other communication channels that no doubt keep everyone in Kilteely up-to-date on your activities.

Do you wear high-viz vests when out and about? This can be a useful tool with which to highlight the work you do among passersby.

### The Built Environment:

Best of luck with your new parish hall and this will be an exciting development for your community. The church is looking very well and was decked out with flags and bunting. The car park was spotless while smaller planting arrangements around is boundary where admired.

The school is looking well decked out in its Irish flags. The neighbouring graveyard would appear to have much heritage value as well as being a place of much contemplation. The graveyard is very well maintained while being sensitive to older monuments. Aherne's shop and pub presented a clean, well painted facade, embellished with decorative hanging baskets. The old, whitewashed farm building, viewed from the Pallasgreen road is a wonderful heritage feature, complemented by the limestone walls along the road boundary.

### **Landscaping:**

You correctly identified that in a rural setting such as this tall trees and green hedges provide the staple landscape features. You are fortunate to be already well endowed in this regard but it is wise to take any opportunity to enhance these features. Smaller displays of flowers have their place and can be suitable for adorning built features.

There is a nice green area across from the Hillview Drive estate. Don't forget to remove the rubber ties from around the trees as it can damage their bark. They look strong enough now not to need the stakes. The small shrubs here have little impact.

The tall horse chestnut trees across from the church are great features although one has clearly not succeeded and should be removed. The green benches here though are in good order.

Overall this adjudicator found that landscaping was in keeping with the rural setting while small flower displays were attractive.

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

The new beehive is an interesting addition. Will this be used for honey production? It is great to read that your bird boxes are slowly being occupied and, along with winter feeding, this can provide a boon for some of your local birds. Did you have a dawn chorus event? This would be a great way to connect people with their local natural heritage. Wildflower forays or bat walks are other interesting events that can be enjoyed by local people. You mentioned that you are planning to establish a bird sanctuary but do not give further details. What will this involve? You rightly identify native trees and hedges as being vital for local plants and animals and they should be enhanced wherever possible.

### **Litter Control:**

You clearly have a zero tolerance approach to litter and this continuous vigilance sets an appropriate tone. Are there regular patrols? Do you participate in the national spring clean? This category is as much about how your town tackles litter as it is about its presence on the ground. The 'power of one' demonstration with the schoolchildren is very effective.

Only very small amounts of litter were observed on adjudication day, nothing significant. The bring centre was immaculate and your attempts to decorate the walls with flowers was admired.

### **Tidiness:**

Have you written to the ESB to put remaining overhead cables underground? Kiltreeley seems to be extremely tidy with no apparent issues surrounding weeds, flyposting or graffiti.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

Do be specific in how you encourage and practice reduce, reuse, recycle. It can be difficult to get past the recycling mentality and move onto real waste minimisation. One of your neighbouring villages had a scheme to collect empty jam jars for people who like to make their own jam. Another raised a lot of money for their school through a scrap metal collection. You seem to have taken a number of ideas away from your waste management workshop earlier in the spring. We look forward to learning how you put these into action.

Your school's green flag is an excellent initiative under this heading and much that they have put into practice could be applied elsewhere in homes and businesses.

**Residential Areas:**

Hill View Drive is an attractive collection of houses set against some mature trees and green areas. The flowerpot on top of the pole at the entrance here is slightly lost in that it is too small to have much impact. A tree would have been better here.

Ballyvouden Crescent has well built houses but perhaps needs a lick of paint. Homes elsewhere were all presented to a very high standard.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The approach from Hospital is characterised by lovely tall trees and mature hedges. The welcome sign a small but clean. The Emly approach is similarly attractive.

**General Impression:**

Kilteeley is a charming rural village that is presented to the highest standard. You have made great headway in the contest in recent years and with a new three-year plan you will no doubt perpetuate this trend. Best of luck!