

Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilsheelan** Ref: **559**
County: **Tipperary(South)** Mark: **298**
Category: **B** Date(s): **16/06/2012**
28/07/2012

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2011	Mark Awarded 2012
Overall Development Approach	50	41	42
The Built Environment	50	39	40
Landscaping	50	42	43
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26	26
Litter Control	50	43	44
Tidiness	30	20	21
Waste Minimisation	20	9	9
Residential Areas	40	29	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35	35
General Impression	10	9	9
TOTAL MARK	400	293	298

Overall Development Approach:

Welcome to the National Tidy Towns Competition 2012. Your committee of 20 members and other volunteers are to be commended on your efforts particularly this year because of the wet spring and summer. It is good that you receive support in your community and from public agencies in your area. Thank you for the map of the area, the Biodiversity Plan and other information such as photographs and newspaper clippings. It is clear that you are an active committee.

The Built Environment:

The Church and surroundings which is a little distance away from the village looked very well. The school was well planted and two green flags were proudly flying there. The Health Centre is well painted. It is a shame to see the new commercial building being empty. It is good that maintenance is continuing. In the village centre the buildings looked very well. The pub at the junction of the N24 and Rathgormack Road was well maintained and had good quality seats. The Grotto was well maintained. The grass mound and railings are a unique feature. Nagles Bar was well painted as was the Morris Oil Station. The old cemetery and Church are well maintained. The car park on the Clonmel Road had a good surface and was well planted. It is an attractive location at which to avail of the picnic facilities.

Landscaping:

Kilsheelan is fortunate to be situated in such a wonderful setting with plenty of trees and a number of excellent specimens are growing on the margins in the centre of the village near the Grotto. Newer planting is noted and the Cedar tree specimen looks very well. It is suggested that landscape treatment should focus on structural planting such as trees with perennial plants such as shrubs and herbaceous plants and to reduce the amount of bedding plants except for important displays and in hanging baskets and containers which you

have used to good effect. The Community Centre had good hanging baskets. We note that you have already used some herbaceous plants. In relation to the use of containers, these are best used where planting directly into the ground is not possible. We note that the circular planting on the Carrick on Suir side of the village has matured somewhat. The shrubs are becoming overgrown and it will be necessary to prune the plants by thinning them individually rather than clipping. Consider planting a hedge against the steel palisade fence opposite the school. The Escallonia hedge at the school is mostly dead but some recovery is noted. It is likely that it will need replacement. Tree suckers need removal as they arise. We noted the planting of flowers in the space between the road and the cycleway, this is very effective. The boat flower bed was clean and tidy.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Kilsheelan is surrounded with a wide range of habitats as identified in your Biodiversity Plan and these provide wonderful opportunities for people to learn more about their environment.

Access to the River was clean at Mill Lane. After recent heavy showers the river was very high. The river banks and the bridge were maintained in good condition and the treatment here is appropriate for the setting. The information board at River Walk looked well. We note that you have undertaken protection and enhancement of Tobair Geal and we saw the works along the river bank. We hope that you have visitors to your bird and bat boxes.

Litter Control:

Well done on your litter control. Your patrols are very effective. How is the "Adopt a Mile" scheme working? We note that you have collected 25 bags of cans and glass during your Spring Clean and recycled them.

Tidiness:

Kilsheelan is a very tidy village and your past achievements are proof of that. You have maintained a high standard of tidiness so well done to all concerned. The disused petrol pumps at Robinson's Bar are no longer in use and should be removed. Well done on working with the local authority to reduce signage clutter and to get some estates swept.

Waste Minimisation:

Bring Banks and the surrounding area were clean. We commend you for the polytunnel at the Community Centre. We note from your report that it provides flowers for the entire village and that you re-use the pots and trays. The two green flags flying at the school look well and may be a symbol of the village being in good hands for the future. We note that over 15 tons of metal were collected for recycling during 2011. Will the exercise be repeated this year? Do you know what quantities are recycled through the bring banks?

Residential Areas:

Kilsheelan has a small number of residential schemes which are identified and well maintained. We note your efforts to have the Ivowen estate completed, it looks fine and trees are planted there. Slievenamon Road, Lake Drive and the Close are new estates in the community and they have large open spaces. More trees are needed here and we suggest the use of wall/climbing plants to help reduce the impact of the concrete walls. The roundabout is a location for special treatment to enhance this area. Railway Close estate has a nice entrance. More trees would enhance the area better than plant containers on the grass. A white wall at the litter bin needed painting. Garden Grove with its fine rock name sign is a welcoming estate. Slievenamon View had a nice entrance and we admired the name stone at Bruach na hAbhainn. Jubilee Terrace and Cloughcarigeen were both in good condition and the hawthorn hedge was well maintained.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

We very much liked the blue "Welcome" signs at village entrances. The signal box at the level crossing was well painted and the railway junction was clean. The side of the road opposite the school needs surfacing. At the N24 junction and the Rathgormack Road hanging baskets and roses made a fine display. The N24 from Carrick on Suir had good trees and the use of Cedar was a good choice here. There is an untidy area on the right.

General Impression:

Despite a constant flow of heavy traffic the village manages to make a good effort. The roadside beds are eye catching. It is a pleasant experience to pass through Kilsheelan. We look forward to your application in 2013.

Second Round Adjudication:

Kilsheelan was in full bloom at the time of second adjudication and was obviously well prepared for Entente

Floral; well done on a fine presentation again this year. The Riverside Walk enjoys excellent maintenance and was in strong demand; can the access point from the car park be developed further for wheelchair accessibility? Or perhaps a hand-rail can be provided alongside the steps to broaden access for people with limited mobility; the riverside is such a fine amenity it is a pity it cannot be enjoyed by all! Has the removal of the laurel along the steps to the river bank and its replacement with a native species been considered? The gates of the level crossing appear to have been painted since first adjudication as they looked well and the painting of kerbs has been noted also. Approach roads enjoy excellent maintenance and are a fine introduction to your lovely village. The ten year plan for the enhancement of your woodland amenity together with the three year plan for wild life and heritage trails are exciting and this adjudicator looks forward to enjoying the fruits of your labour! No doubt your strong working relationship with Coillte and STCC will hasten the completion of these plans. We wish you every success with the design and installation of a sculpture focal point for the village and interpretive panels.