

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcock**

Ref: **748**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **251**

Category: **E**

Date(s): **09/07/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	34	34
The Built Environment	50	28	28
Landscaping	50	33	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	26	28
Litter Control	50	31	31
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	12	14
Tidiness	30	16	16
Residential Areas	40	30	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	27	27
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	244	251

Overall Development Approach:

Kilcock is welcomed to the Tidy Towns competition for 2013. Thank you for your entry, photographs, cuttings and map all very helpful to the adjudicator. You have a nice size committee of twelve and it is nice to see gender balance. Your support from the County Council other relevant agencies and schools is strong. Your communication through social media and local papers is a good way of getting in contact with the community. Your committee are important to the town as a promoter assisting to address issues that may arise. Your participation in the competition encourages the community to work together in an effort to make the town more attractive for the people that live there and for those visiting. Your engagement with the local schools assisting with the green schools initiatives is very positive and will help the community on how best to reduce waste under Sustainable Waste and Resource Management. From last year's report it is noted that a new plan for the town needs to be done as a follow on from your last one. Do try and have this done for next year's competition.

The Built Environment:

Thomas O'Keefes Pub and Tapas overlooking the canal looked splendid as did Black Forest Shop. Down Butlers Lane the Library and Kilcock Community Centre were admired. The Church looked splendid and the millennium garden was visited. The convent of the Presentation Sisters is a fine building. The old graveyard was also visited but it needs attention. The Court House looked well with hanging baskets. Kilcock GAA was also visited and the tree lined road leading there was much admired. The Picnic area on the Kinnegad Road was superb with lovely granite seating and containers of flowers on the railings, well done on this project. St Joseph's Christian Brothers 1871-1992 with nice square planters was also admired. The town like most towns and villages has unoccupied buildings which when abandoned soon become derelict and take from general appearance of the streetscape. It is good to see that Kilcock business association are assisting to try and enhance the appearance with the planting of the garden at the town square. It certainly has enhanced this area. The use of bilingual signage is also positive.

Landscaping:

As mentioned earlier the newly planted area at the square looks well and has some nice planting. The millennium garden was also admired. The green area down by the canal had some nice trees and lovely planters. The picnic area on the Kinnegad road has many enjoyable arrays of flowers. On Church lane lovely houses with hanging baskets and tubs provided an aroma through the air as one passed on their way. Do

continue to remember to plant as much all year planting as possible hedging and trees will provide all year round colour and food for wildlife.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

Having such a lovely amenity running through your town is worth a lot to the community. It provides an amenity for the community and brings tourists into the town. From your entry there is more development proposed for cyclists which will only attract more people to your area. The canal also provides a haven for other visitors like wildlife. It also provides walks for the community where the plants and wildlife that live in the waters and overgrowth can be admired. The many hedges, trees and plants planted in the landscaped beds also provide food for birds and insects. A usual phenomenon is that the road, railway, canal and river run parallel, what a nice feature to have for a Sli Na Slainte route. Do consider the different types of wildlife that lives in overgrowth of these four areas. The ducks were admired swimming on the canal on a sunny day as the adjudicator walked along. Do many of the community visit Larchill? More information on this 18th century parkland would be welcomed. Do try and provide information signs on all wildlife found around the canal, river and hedgerows and place them on amenity walks.

Litter Control:

This category needs a lot of organised planning with the entire community to combat the litter in the town. Litter does take from the appearance of any area. It is noted that litter picks are held regularly. On the day of adjudication litter was noted down by the canal and at the station which appeared to have being there for some time. Down at the old graveyard litter was also spotted. Do put a plan in place to reduce litter. Work with the County Council, the schools and if you have workers on CE or similar schemes to assist you.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

Well done to the four schools participating in the Green Schools initiative and obtaining green flags. Pupil's, teachers and all concerned are to be commended. Do continue to work with the schools and the broader community to reduce the amount of waste produced in the community. There are many areas where waste can be reduced and this includes resource efficiency areas of water, energy and transport. The list is endless so do consult the Tidy Towns hand book and reduce.

Tidiness:

Well done on the work you have done to address untidy areas. Graffiti is still a problem in some areas. Weed growth along kerbs was noted. The Texaco sign at Kelly's Garage needs attention and some other signs in need of cleaning or replacing were also noted. Continue your work with the County Council and local businesses to address the areas mentioned.

Residential Areas:

Mill Lane was visited and admired; the houses here are superb not to mention the flowers which also looked superb. The estates of which a number were visited were all well-presented and landscaped. Many other houses throughout the town were also presented well and had some lovely floral displays. One house that caught the adjudicator's eye was the house just over the railway bridge with the canal behind it which had some lovely roses and fuchsia around the walls.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads were generally good and grass verges were neat. Roundabouts and nameplates were good. Many roads had some pleasant avenues of trees, hedging and walls. Traffic flowed freely however the square seemed unorganised parking wise, maybe it was only on the day.

General Impression:

The visit to Kilcock was enjoyed. You are doing good work for the competition and the town. Do continue this while addressing some of the areas mentioned. The adjudicator wishes you continued success in the competition.