

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilcullen**

Ref: **371**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **278**

Category: **D**

Date(s): **03/07/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	41	41
The Built Environment	50	33	35
Landscaping	50	44	44
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	27	30
Litter Control	50	30	30
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	13	14
Tidiness	30	17	17
Residential Areas	40	24	26
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32	33
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	400	269	278

Overall Development Approach:

Kilcullen is welcomed to the TidyTown's competition for 2013. Thank you for your entry, copy of action plan for 2013 and helpful map. Your committee of 12 are working well with the County Council, Kildare Leadership and Community Employment Scheme. Their support is important to you. Your engagement with the local schools is also important. The school is an important group for TidyTown's as their participation in the green schools initiative is beneficial to the community. They are also a great support with combatting litter by helping out with litter picks. Your positive feedback on your participation in the TidyTown's competition is welcomed. Your communication methods, through social media and the newspapers is a good means of getting the word out.

The Built Environment:

Your major success last year was the treatment of three derelict sites. You have successfully had one house sold and the other two, through your assistance were refurbished. This is all extra work that TidyTown's groups have had to address in recent times. Your support to the school in developing a public accessible garden at the convent will create a nice amenity for the community. The town looked bright and cheerful with hanging baskets and window boxes. The Post Office building and lanterns caught the eye as did the building of the Credit Union. Kilcullen Boys National School, now a library was also noted but could do with some freshening up. An Tearmann craft and coffee shop is a nice enterprise and was visited, tasting some of its tasty beverages. The valley was visited and this lovely amenity was admired. St Bridget's well or "the spout" 200ad, it's good to see it back working. The Town Hall is another important part of the town's history. The fine stone church of Sacred Heart and St Bridget was visited. The Cross and Passion College is a fine imposing building, was admired as was the Eurospar (1809).

Landscaping:

The Valley Riverside Park is a lovely amenity for the community to appreciate. These parks are a constant source of maintenance as you state in your entry and can get overgrown very quickly. As a result, constant pruning of shrubs and trees is needed to provide a super place for people to visit. The park has many mature trees and shrubs.

The window boxes and hanging baskets add lovely colour and brightness to the buildings along the streetscape. There were some pleasant areas of landscaping at various points; one in particular that was admired was at the side of Bardons. This area displayed lovely flowers and shrubs. Dun Ailinne interpretive park on the Athy Road

is a lovely area of trees, grass and shrubs that add all year round colour to the park and must be a joy to visit, even in winter. The new community Garden at the convent will be a lovely amenity and will be available for all the community to visit. The new sculpture to be erected in Valley Park will make a nice feature in this area.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The River Liffey is a great source for wildlife and you are lucky to have such a fine amenity area along the banks of the river, so close to the town making it easily accessible for the community. The Camphill Community based in the town centre do great work for people with special needs. Some of the people live and work on the organic farm. Volunteers have helped to do work on the new nature trail making a new footpath. The people that live on site helped with the biodiversity study which included talks on bats, birds, butterflies and wildlife in general. The study provided information which will be used for new signage along the walk in the Valley Riverside Park. Kilcullen Farm and Nature Trail is not just a wildlife trail, there is also farm produce and birds/animals such as chickens, turkeys, geese and sheep. This is a very worthwhile project to be associated with when you look at the happiness on people's faces that reside there. Well done on this project. The central area of the green which is left uncut for wildflowers is an area available to the local crèche and primary school children where they can learn about wildlife in grassland. The maize cut through the grass will make a lovely play and activity area. The community compost facility is also here and was noted.

Litter Control:

Your policy on combatting litter is weekly litter picks and clean-ups of specific areas where a lot of people congregate. Well done on entering the gum litter task force competition. You state you removed the street bins some years ago. Do you think that this is a better way of reducing litter by asking people to bring home litter or where you have bins in the amenity areas, is litter less of a problem? On day of adjudication litter was noted around the football pitch and at the Valley. Nothing too major so keep up the good work.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

Kilcullen TidyTowns are addressing some of the elements in this category by corresponding by text. This is one area by cutting down on paper use. Reusing the contents of window boxes for use on flower beds is another good idea. Your group have worked with local residents to provide community composting and segregating litter collections. Working with local schools, primary and secondary green schools initiative is a good model to work with. You are doing well with reusing and recycling. Look at more ways to reduce. What were the results of the household survey? Was there anything specific that could be reduced? Have you looked at www.stopfoodwaste.ie ? Also the area of resource management in water, energy and transport, in these areas there is room to reduce. Use rainwater, share transport, cycle or walk to reduce energy. Try moving to the top of the pyramid for next year.

Tidiness:

Kilcullen was generally tidy but there were some areas of untidiness. Signage in places needed cleaning or painting. Kilcullen sign and bus stop sign beside flowerbed needed painting. The sign for the River Liffey across from the Credit Union also needs painting. There was also some weed growth at kerbs near the Town Hall and Heritage Centre. The boundary wall of the car park at the church needs painting and also the barrier. There was also a lot of boarding beside the car park that needs removing. These are areas if addressed would add greatly to the overall tidiness of the town.

Residential Areas:

It is good to see that the residents association are taking care of their own areas. This is a tremendous help to the TidyTowns group. It helps the committee prepare for the competition. The awards for estates is also encouraging and rewarding for the residents. Some of the estates visited were well landscaped with nice trees and green areas were much admired. In some areas weed growth at kerbs was noticed. Gardens were neat and tidy and added great colour to the areas. Window boxes and hanging baskets were also admired. Through the town there were also some lovely houses which are part of the old town and still an important part of the streetscape. Houses near the church were admired. The stone apartment block at the bridge was also admired. Different styles of houses, some modern and some of the old town all play their own part in making the streetscape of Kilcullen attractive. Well done to all the residents for taking such pride in their areas.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to the town are well presented with nice neat verges, hedging and mature trees. Some nice landscaping at the approach signs was noted. The stone bridge over the Liffey was admired. It is a part of the town history and provides a very fine entrance to the town.

General Impression:

Kilcullen was a pleasure to visit. Your committee are doing good work with results evident. There is a good community involvement which is welcomed. Thank you for participating in the competition and continued success.

