

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildangan**

Ref: **163**

County: **Kildare**

Mark: **270**

Category: **A**

Date(s): **26/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	35	35
The Built Environment	50	33	34
Landscaping	50	31	32
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30	31
Litter Control	50	34	35
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	10	11
Tidiness	30	20	20
Residential Areas	40	32	33
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	31	32
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	263	270

Overall Development Approach:

Kildangan is welcomed to the 2013 Tidy Towns competition. Your entry together with helpful map and pictures of the village was most helpful to the adjudicator. Your policy of selecting doable projects each year is commended and it is good to see you are undertaking putting together a three year plan for the village. Your committee of five receive good support from the community and this shows that you as a committee are engaging well with the relevant agencies and businesses to acquire sponsorship and support when required. Your involvement with the local primary schools Green School Scheme is important as this will inform the community with regards to reducing waste. Kildangan Stud is another very important sponsor to have and the maintenance of the hedgerows and grass verges on this road is very helpful to the committee. Do try and reduce posters and flyers as a means of communication and maybe use a texting system as a means of updating residents. All groups are encouraged to reduce waste and reducing paper is one way.

The Built Environment:

Kildangan has some very attractive buildings such as the Church which is well maintained with nice planters. The School building looks well but the road wall needs painting. The Gala and Educational Centre were admired as was the G.A.A grounds and surrounds. Kildangan stud is a very well maintained area and compliments the village. The Crosskeys pub is another fine feature of the village. The village is similar to many visited with some old houses closed up and new housing estates unfinished. It is good to see that you are in negotiations with the relevant people involved and you are getting cooperation in trying to improve these areas. Your pump project is welcomed and the adjudicator looks forward to its return.

Landscaping:

Landscaping throughout the village is of a very high standard. Starting at Kildangan Stud the nice array of plants, trees and hedging were admired. Landscaping around the church was greatly admired. The many private well maintained gardens and tubs of flowers throughout the village all add a splash of colour to the village. The name plates on the entrance roads were also noted. Do continue to plant more trees and plants that will bring all year round colour and food for wildlife.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The area at Bridgeside cottages was visited and the areas around here provide a safe environment for wildlife. The many trees and hedging throughout the village and in the area around Kildangan stud also provide natural habitats for wildlife. The river running through is another natural amenity for the village and could be developed in time to provide information boards with the types of wildlife that live and visit the village. This can be done as part of your three year plan. As mentioned in landscaping do continue to provide berries and other plants that attract butterflies and insects to the area.

Litter Control:

Litter is an on-going problem and always needs to be addressed. Your worker is certainly keeping litter controlled in the village as on adjudication day only a small amount was observed at the Gala Shop. Does your group take part in An Taisce Spring Clean; this is a good way of getting the community involved. Do also involve the school children in any clean ups you are organising.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

This category looks at how waste can be reduced in the community. The best way to identify areas where waste could be reduced is to do a survey with the group and the result of the survey will identify areas where the community can reduce waste. This can be composting the grass and using the compost on flower beds. Reducing energy and saving the community money. Reusing and selling old clothes and books as a means of reducing waste can also help obtain funds for necessary projects. Ideally the Tidy Towns committee should have a member on the Green Schools committee. Another good area is to join the Green Homes.

Tidiness:

The village looked untidy in places as a result of weed growth along kerbs. This is not a difficult area to address, early spraying of pavements and verges would help to address this. Do also try and ensure that all signage is cleaned or replaced if damaged and remove poles with no signs that are not needed.

Residential Areas:

Bridgeside Cottages look cosy nestled in their own private well maintained gardens. The houses in the centre of the village are attractive and they too have attractive gardens. Abbotswood has all the appearance of a well-cared for area with green areas, paved areas, and seating all well presented. However there is just some repair needed to the railing along the road. There were other private and well maintained houses and gardens throughout the village. The group has done great work with the unoccupied houses and this is not an easy issue to address. Well done on your best kept garden competition, this is a good way of encouraging groups to maintain their area, well done on this initiative.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The roads into the village are all neat with well-maintained verges with attractive village nameplates in Irish and English. The mix of hedges, mature trees, stone walls and the bridge in the village all complement each other.

General Impression:

Kildangan is a lovely village to visit and adjudicate. Good luck with your three year plan for the area and continued work with issues raised with KCC, let's hope you get a favourable response. Good luck in the future and continue the good work. Well done.