

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kildare** Ref: **100**
County: **Kildare** Mark: **243**
Category: **E** Date(s): **03/07/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	33	35
The Built Environment	50	34	35
Landscaping	50	38	39
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	19	20
Litter Control	50	26	26
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	7	8
Tidiness	30	18	18
Residential Areas	40	28	29
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	26	26
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	236	243

Overall Development Approach:

Kildare is welcomed to the 2013 Tidy Towns Competition. Thank you for you entry, copy of your plan, map and supporting documentation. Your core group of volunteers is supported by Kildare County Council, other relevant agencies such as businesses, the local schools and residents associations. Many tourists' attractions which are the tradition of Kildare such as the National Stud and the Japanese Gardens bring many visitors to the town. The town escaped the over development during the Celtic Tiger that left unfinished housing in many towns and which created their own problems. Your positive feedback on the competition is welcomed. Your participation in welcomed by the Tidy Towns Unit. Your Kildare Tidy Towns Plan has many worthwhile projects over all the categories. Hopefully as you progress through the plan each year you will begin to see worthwhile improvements.

The Built Environment:

The town square has a great buzz of activity. The nice planters add great colour to the area as you look across the square. Silken Thomas is a lovely building with hanging baskets, very eye catching. The Tourist Office is the focal point of the square together with a very informative information board. Lord Edward Fitzgerald in the square is also an important part of the town. The cathedral is a beautiful building with lovely stone. The wishing stone at the corner of the building was also noted and tried out, still awaiting the wish. The exhibition was indeed a worthwhile visit. The round tower one of two such towers in Ireland that can be entered was admired. The adjudicator could not miss a challenge and as the tour guide was just opening for visitors the top of the tower was the next step. The climb was enjoyed and more importantly the view from the top was magnificent. Many more buildings were admired such as Graces Bar and the Bank of Ireland. The Carmelites another of the towns landmarks was admired. The White Abbey Church was also visited. More flyers on the tower with information of its history may help to bring more visitors. The gate into St Brigid's Kitchen at the church could do with painting.

Landscaping:

There are many nice locations of landscaping which were noticed. The box hedging cut in the shape of St Bridgids Cross was admired. The roundabout with the horse sculpture not only looks well but tells one what the town of Kildare is most famous for. The many planters of flowers are eye catching with their three legged style. The old metal container at the square was well planted in seasonal colours. There are many nice green areas,

mature trees and hedging that adds greatly to the towns approach roads. The window boxes and hanging baskets bring a lovely splash of colour to the town.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The committee's development of a three year biodiversity action plan for Kildare town 2013 – 2015 which will run in tandem with the three year Tidy Towns action plan will be a welcome study of the heritage value. It is hoped this will increase public awareness/appreciation of the natural environment within the town. There are many biodiversity areas in the town notably Grey Abbey Eco Park, the Town Park, churchyards and graveyards. The planting of hedges and plants will give all year round colour as well as providing food for wildlife which is recommended. The trimming of grass verges which allow a corridor of growth at back as a resource for wildlife is also recommended. Good luck with your study on biodiversity.

Litter Control:

The town is fortunate to have Kildare County Council and workers on the community scheme which is a good source of help in dealing with litter control in the town. The committee alone will not be able to fully succeed at reducing litter without the help of the schools and the community. The residents association should also be encouraged to look after their own grass areas which will relieve some of the work load from the committee. On day of adjudication some litter was spotted at the square. Do continue with your litter awareness campaign.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

This category is about reducing, reusing and recycling waste in the community. The pyramid shows where the most important R is situated to the top that is reducing waste produced in the community. You should engage with the schools as part of their green schools initiative on the best methods of reducing waste. A study of households in the town on what waste each household produces is the first step. Results of this survey can be looked at to see the areas where waste is most likely to be reduced. Under resource management around the areas of water energy and transport savings can be made by using rainwater, carpooling and cycling and therefore using less energy. Joining the Green Homes or consulting the Tidy Town's handbook is another good source of guidance. Try and work on the category and show evidence of how your addressing the three 'R, s' in your waste reducing programme.

Tidiness:

The town has some areas that need to be addressed in this category along the kerbs on approach roads and through the town there was grass growth which looked untidy. Street signs in some areas needed cleaning, painting or replacing. A hardware shop had clutter outside on the footpath that looked untidy. Do continue to work with Kildare County Council in this category to improve the town's tidiness.

Residential Areas:

Working with the residents associations around maintenance of housing estates is a great assistance to the tidy towns committee in preparation for the national competition. The estates competition which is held annually is also a great way of encouraging and rewarding residents for maintaining their areas. Some of the estates were visited and the work the residents are doing was noted. The gardens are neat and tidy, green areas are well maintained with nice mature trees and good landscaping. Some weed growth was noticed at kerbs through the town. Many nice houses were admired through the town. Well done to all residents on the presentation of their houses. It shows they have pride in their area and in the town.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads to the town were generally well maintained. The nameplates could do with updating and landscaping to make a more attractive approach to the town. Grass verges were neat. Do ensure that foliage is cut back where there is overgrowing foliage on directional signs. Hedges were well maintained but should not be cut during the nesting season. The bridges in the town were noted, they form part of the town history and are an important part of the streetscape. Your work at cathedral site at Chapel Hill was noted and will greatly improve this area when the new wall is reconstructed.

General Impression:

Kildare town was a pleasure to visit. The town has great potential to progress in the Tidy Towns Competition. In your three year plan you have set goals that are achievable and the adjudicator looks forward to seeing them when complete. Wishing you continued success.