

Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Kilkea**
County: **Kildare**
Category: **A**

Ref: **372**
Mark: **249**
Date(s): **29/06/2013**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2012	Mark Awarded 2013
Overall Development Approach	50	26	27
The Built Environment	50	33	33
Landscaping	50	35	35
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	20	20
Litter Control	50	41	41
Sustainable Waste And Resource Management	20	3	4
Tidiness	30	20	20
Residential Areas	40	32	33
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	28	29
General Impression	10	7	7
TOTAL MARK	400	245	249

Overall Development Approach:

Kilkea is welcomed to the 2013 competition. Thank you for your entry. Do try and put together a 2-3 year plan for your area and each year plan what projects you are completing in that year. Kilkea is a small village set in a rural area. Your committee of five are working well and it is good to see the community are committed to the upkeep of the village. You engage well with the relevant agencies and school which is doing well in the green schools initiative. The village could benefit from village name plates at entrance from all roads.

The Built Environment:

There are some impressive stone buildings throughout the village. Kilkea National Schools is a beautiful building and has a nice herbaceous bed at the front gate. The entrance to Kilkea castle was also noted, hopefully a new owner will develop this area further. The church is also a pleasant building and was well presented with a screen of mature trees and stone wall to the front. The pump is another feature of the village and is planted with attractive flowers.

Landscaping:

The village has a natural landscape in the many mature trees that surround the area. The school has some attractive planting at the gate and the landscaping at the church and the private houses throughout the village all add colour to the area. The bed at the heritage sign at Reddys gate needs attention. The half barrels positioned in front of a private house looked very well. Do continue to plant more trees where suitable, such plants that provide food for birds and that will also provide all year round colour to the village.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

The village has two good areas of natural habitat for wildlife together with the mature trees, stone walls and hedging that all contribute and create ideal locations for all types of wildlife. The castle has a vast area where wildlife can live without being disturbed. Mullaghreelan forest would be similar. Liaising with Coillte in this area would be very beneficial to the village. Maybe the new owners of the castle would allow the community to enjoy walks in the castle grounds.

Litter Control:

The village clean ups have certainly contributed in keeping this village almost free of litter. The school are also playing an important role in this area. Do continue with your plan of combatting litter as it seems to be working well.

Sustainable Waste And Resource Management:

This category has caused a lot of confusion for groups. Groups are encouraged to reduce the amount of waste produced in the community. Your work with the schools green schools initiative will help you to understand this area. The community need to progress by focusing as well on resource efficiency which would include water, energy and transport. Any savings here would be a saving to the community. Under re-use there are lots of areas where groups can re-use items and obtain much needed funding for the community.

Tidiness:

The village has a general air of tidiness. The 60 speed limit sign could do with cleaning. Also near the church the signs seem very cluttered and should be cleaned and reorganised to give a less cluttered effect.

Residential Areas:

It is good to see that the village has maintained its high standard of fine stone houses that blend well with the natural stone of the village. The old and new look so good that one would think they were always there. From the 1863 school house now a private residence to the more modern dwellings that have been built on the approach roads, all looked good. Each one is landscaped nicely and cared for to add to the streetscape of this village in a positive way. You are also one of the lucky villages that there are not too many unfinished houses in your area.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

The approach roads are neat and well presented. The village would benefit from nice name plates on approach roads. There is encroaching grass at the bridge that needs attention. It needs to be cut back to show off this lovely feature in the village. The stone walls look well particularly the one at the ramp in the village and the one in front of the church also caught the eye.

General Impression:

Well done on your continued work in each of the categories. Do try and put together a 3 year plan. The new ownership of the castle will be welcomed. Wishing you continued success in the competition in the coming years ahead.